



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MIDWESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER September 2024



Latest and Greatest News!

Pastors and Congregations

Welcome Pastor Jay Jackson to First English, Mansfield, OH, North Central OH MD. Pastor Jay formerly served Trinity in Joppa, MD. Installation service will be Sunday, September 15th at 2:30pm at First English.

Welcome Pastor Steven Broers (LCMC) as Senior Pastor at St. John's, LeMars, Iowa MD (dual rostered). Pastor Steven will be installed at 10:30am on Sunday, September 15.

Call and Ordination. Khrystle Sullivan accepted the call to Emmanuel, Rochester MN, Iowa MD. She will be ordained 1pm, Saturday, September 7, at St Mark's Lutheran (LCMC) in Marion, IA. The installation date is tentatively set for October 24th at 4pm.

On Line New Member Class Zoom

September 10, 17, 24, October 1; 7pm. See details below. Email Pr. Jess if interested midwesternaab@nalc.org

On Line Young Adults (age 18-30) Zoom

Work through a Life-to-Life Disciple experience. Starts Sunday, September 22, 6pm ET. Contact Pastor Teresa Peters, NALC director of Youth and Family Ministry, for more information tpeters@thenalc.org

New NALC Mailing Address

2113 Harwood RD STE 309,
PMB 409,
Bedford, TX 76021-4703

Interim Pastor and Stewardship Workshops

The Ohio Mission Region will be hosting an **Interim Training** event on Friday noon to 5p, October 18th and a full day **RESET workshop** on the 19th. Both events will be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church in Thornville, Ohio. For

more information contact Pastor Kathy Pennington, penningtonkm@gmail.com

Area Assistant to the Bishop Offers Online Class on the Book of Revelation

The class will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Mark Braaten, Southern Area assistant to the bishop for the NALC. Pastor Braaten's Doctor of Ministry degree is in Revelation studies. He has taught on the book of Revelation for 30 years. He is the author of two books on Revelation, *Come Lord Jesus: A Study of Revelation and Engaging Revelation*.



Oct. 3 — The Dragon, Beast, 666, Revelation 12 and 13.

Oct. 10 — Why I Don't like the Theory of a Rapture.

Oct. 17 — Armageddon, Revelation 16 and 19.

Oct. 24 — New Jerusalem, Revelation 21 and 22.

For more information email Pastor Mark southernaab@thenalc.org

Mission Trip Opportunity with Grace, Springfield, Ohio

Join Grace Lutheran in Springfield on a mission trip to Kentucky this fall. The trip is to Laurel Mission in Big Laurel

<https://www.laurelmission.com/> **Oct 27-Nov 2** Project include home renovation, food pantry, clothing pantry, food give away, youth group activities depending on their schedule and the year. There are options to go for the full week (\$150 per person covers food and lodging plus donation for supplies as able) or partial week (\$75 per person for food and lodging plus donation for supplies as able.) Contact Sandy Thompson for more information: sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org

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 pastors and lay leaders via zoom, generally the second Saturday of each month at 10a. Pericope devotion followed by sharing of faith journey and concerns for prayer. Contact Pr. Abbott at midwesternaab@thenalc.org for Zoom invitation.

NC-Ohio MD, District Gathering on Saturday, September 14th at Trinity, Crestline. 9am until noon. They'll be assembling Flood Buckets and other items for NALC Disaster Response. Email Pr. Pennington for more information penningtonkm@gmail.com

NE-Ohio MD, Contact Pr. Michael Koch for mor information mekoch46@gmail.com

NW-Ohio MD, Pastor Fellowship 9am Sep 19 at First, Troy Ohio. Contact Pr. Bert Schultz for mor information BertSchultz2@outlook.com

SW-Ohio MD, Pastors Fellowship 10am September 11th at Grace Lutheran Church, Dayton, OH. Contact Pr. Daniels for more information markluth91@gmail.com

Retreats

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.

Retreat for Council Members, Jan 11, 2025 time and location TBD

The SW Ohio Mission District is sponsering this retreat and invites any in the Midwestern Area to attend. For more information or to **Register**, email Pr. Mark Daniels, markluth91@gmail.com

Society of the Holy Trinity Retreat, September 24-26, 2024
 General registration for the General Chapter Retreat is now open. The theme for this year's retreat is "The Holy Office of Ministry" which will be held on the campus of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, IL. For more information, and to register, contact Pastor Norman Dew, normandew@gmail.com

First NALC Midwestern Area Retreat



A fine time was had by all August 19-21 at St. John, Greenville, OH. Twelve addended from several Mission Districts (Heartland, NW-OH, NE-OW, and SW-OH). The consensus was overwhelmingly to offer another Area retreat next year.

Candidacy for Ordained Ministry Seminars 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.
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
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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

“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.

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 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

Remote Pastoral Care

If you are a congregation without a pastor, you ALWAYS have a pastor. Contact your Mission District Dean for pastoral advice. Or, your Area Assistant to the Bishop (Pr. Jess) is always available to provide pastoral counseling midwesternaab@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 to register for July classes or for more information at midwesternaab@thenalc.org

Disaster Response

Volunteer Training and Retreat Center, Caldwell, Ohio. The center is on the property of the national disaster warehouse and is available for service projects, and retreats. Contact Mary Bates for more information and how to get involved, 740-509-1132, disasterresponse@thenalc.org

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.

Lutheran Chapel Week

Fall: Oct. 21-25, 2024 Spring: Mar. 17-21, 2025
Trinity School for Ministry is a seminary in the Anglican tradition and, as such, uses the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) for all its liturgies in Trinity Chapel. However, once per semester, our Anglican brothers and sisters grant “we Lutherans” the opportunity to lead all the liturgies over the course of one week using the historic liturgies for Matins, Vespers, The Eucharist, and Compline; it becomes **Lutheran Chapel Week!** There is an open invitation for anyone to visit the residential campus any time, but you might consider Lutheran Chapel Week as a special opportunity. For more

information on any visit to campus, contact Frontz, Rebecka rebecka.frontz@tsm.edu

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

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).

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 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 schedule to attend:

- Sep 8** – Preach and NALC Q&A at Hopeful Lutheran Church (LCMC), Florence, KY
- Sep 21** – Iowa Mission District Convocation, St. John, Western Douglas
- Oct 5** – Wisconsin / UP Mission District Convocation, Wausau, WI
- Oct 12** – Michigan Mission District Convocation, Trufant, MI
- Oct 19** – Installation, Redeemer, Owasso, MI
- Nov 12-13** – NALC Deans Meeting with the Bishop, Dallas, TX
- Dec 2-5** – NALC All Staff, Dallas TX
- Jan 28-30, 2025**. NALC Clergy Retreat, San Antonio, TX

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. Tom Jacobson, OH South East MD
740-242-2192, pastor@gracethornville.org
- Pr. Michael Koch, OH North East Mission District
330-635-8008, mekoch46@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, dqast1950@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, tireiff@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