



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MIDWESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER August 2024



Latest and Greatest News!

NALC Convocation August 9, 6-9pET (online)

Reminder to register at <https://lutheranweek.com/> There will be electronic voting, so you'll need to register in order to receive instructions how to participate. Registration will close at 9am on Aug. 9.

Pastors and Congregations

Welcome Zion Lutheran Church, Lafayette, Ohio and Pastor Ryan Cordle and his wife Noel! We rejoice to receive Zion and the Cordles to our mutual ministry in the NW Ohio Mission District. Please join the others of the Mission District in welcoming Pastor Cordle at their picnic August 4th (see below for time and place).

Welcome First Lutheran Church, Iron Mountain, Michigan 1210 S Stephenson Ave, MI 49801-4040; (o) 906-774-0133 first.ev.ch@sbcglobal.net We rejoice to receive First to our mutual ministry in the Wisconsin Upper Peninsula Mission District.

Welcome Pastor Jay Jackson to First English, Mansfield, OH. He begins Augusts 18th and we rejoice to receive him to the North Central Ohio Mission District.

God Speed for Pastor Christian Meier who celebrated his last day at St. John Lutheran Church, LeMars, Iowa (IA Mission District). One of the ministries Pastor Meier is moving to is service in the **U.S. Army Reserve**. His plans are to enter the Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course at Ft. Jackson, SC soon.

NALC Midwestern Area Clergy Retreat
The Midwestern Area Assistant to the Bishop is hosting a Clergy retreat at St. John Lutheran Church, Greenville, Ohio, 1pm 19Aug to 12pm

21Aug, 2024. Clergy from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio are especially invited, but any others are also welcome to register. **Cost:** travel to retreat, lodging cost (if not provided a scholarship), meals other than those provided during the event. (No registration fee for materials or presenter). **Subject of presentations:** Pastors functioning in Congregations as "emotional systems of families"; an application of Family Systems Theory for clergy. For more information or to **Register**, email Pr. Jess Abbott, midwesternaab@nalc.org Please register not later than 11Aug, 2024.

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

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
southernab@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

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.

SE-Ohio MD **Every Monday** pastors Text
study, at 10a, with Pr. Thomas Jacobson,
Ph.D. Hosted online via Microsoft Teams.
Please contact Pr. Tom
pastor@gracethornville.org if interested.

NC-Ohio MD, Pastors Fellowship Family
potluck picnic tentatively set for Thursday,
September 19th at 5pm, Email Pr. Pennington
for more information
penningtonkm@gmail.com

NE-Ohio MD, Pastor Fellowship 10am August
26 at St. Paul, Bolivar, OH. Contact Pr. Michael
Koch for mor information
mekoch46@gmail.com

NW-Ohio MD, Pastor Fellowship and Picnic
4pm August 4 at the home of Pr. Bill Maki.

Contact Pr. Bert Schultz for mor information
BertSchultz2@outlook.com

SW-Ohio MD, Pastors Fellowship 10am July
19th at Grace Lutheran Church, West
Carrollton, OH. Contact Pr. Daniels for more
information markluth91@gmail.com

SW-Ohio MD, The Faith Festival, August 10,
at Grace / Eaton, OH. Contact Pr. Daniels for
more information markluth91@gmail.com

Pastor 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.

Midwestern Area Clergy Retreat, Aug 19-21,
2024 at St. John, Greenville OH.
Clergy from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio are
especially invited, but any others are also
welcome to register. For more information or to
Register, email Pr. Jess Abbott,
midwesternaab@nalc.org

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

Candidacy for Ordained Ministry Seminarians in the Midwestern Area

Khrystle Sullivan, North American Lutheran Seminary
network (NALS), Iowa MD. **Approved for ordination**

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 Barman, Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. NC
Ohio MD.

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

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

Molly King, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, M.Div program. SE Ohio MD
Kent Haley, Ordination Under Special Circumstances Program. New Life, Gallipolis OH, SE Ohio MD.
Ethan Zimmerman, NALS Center at Trinity School for Ministry, M.Div program. NE Ohio MD.
Pam Grandmason, Ordination Under Special Circumstances Program Trinity School for Ministry (NALS), Ambridge PA, Michigan 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

“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

Marital / Premarital Counseling Tool

Zoe www.zoescore.com. Currently, the tool is used by approximately 10,000 pastors/therapists around the country and world.

Pastor Brian Salminen would gladly welcome the opportunity to train any NALC pastors / lay leaders on the use of the tool for free. If interested, contact Pr. Salminen at drsal_123@yahoo.com

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

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).

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:

Aug 9, 2024 – NALC online Convocation

Aug 19-21, 2024 – Midwestern Area Clergy Retreat, Greenville, OH

Sep 8, 2024 – Preach and NALC Q&A at Hopeful Lutheran Church (LCMC), Florence, KY

Sep 21, 2024 – 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

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. 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, 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, 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