

News for the

Women of the NALC

North American
Lutheran Church

The Chair's Corner

Grace & Peace to All,

As we are in the holiday season starting with Thanksgiving & on through Epiphany it is truly a time of celebrations & expectations. This season more than any other reflects the cycles of life.

When we were young Thanksgiving meant our favorite desserts, cakes, pies & cookies & of course it was the beginning of Christmas. Which led us into our first advent season, anticipation & expectation filled the air as Thanksgiving meant Christmas was near; Christmas meant more food, & toys.

Christmas was a time to check out the toy department in Sears & Roebuck; if you couldn't make it to the store countless hours would be spent thumbing through the pages of the Sears Christmas catalog. The anticipation, the excitement of when the catalog would arrive & who in the family would be the first to look inside. Anticipation & expectations for Christmas were found in the pages of that precious book.

As we got older Thanksgiving took on a different meaning such as who would get the coveted drumstick from the turkey. Which of your favorite cousins would be coming to dinner? Do we watch the parade on television or go to the movies? Later in years we would change focus to how many dirty dishes there would be to wash. There was still the fight over that Sears catalog, anticipation & expectations for Christmas.

Before you knew it, you were in Confirmation class & Thanksgiving started to be about what you were thankful for & it couldn't be the Sears catalog. The giving of thanks for the many blessings that we had been given throughout the year.

As adults we are thankful throughout the year, giving God thanks & praise for just being the loving God that He is. The Sears catalog has now been replaced as the most important book in our lives by the Bible. Our anticipation & expectations shift from receiving gifts from one book to receiving the greatest gift of all from the only book that really matters. We still plan the Thanksgiving dinner, bake all of the goodies that come with the day. Our focus now is on the other Advent season the one where the anticipation is the coming of Christ.

This holiday season celebrate Thanksgiving for all that God has done for you in this past year. Be reminded during Advent that we have a gift greater than anything ever found in the Sears & Roebuck catalog or the Niemen Marcus catalog coming to us. That is that was Christ born, has died & will come again. When you see a star in the sky be reminded of that first Epiphany, when God signal the world that the Savior had come.

Giving Thanks this season for all of you.

Jacqui



Jacqui El Torro





Mission Minded

Have you ever really thought about what Missions mean to you? What are you contributing to the Missions field? Did you put a gift card in the Tonka truck in Denver & thought that your missions' commitment for the year was complete? Has your church or women's group sent in money to support our Missions Banks or Missions in general? Perhaps you are supporting a Youth Missions trip, or you donated to Stuff the Semi when Disaster Response rolled through your state. Did you know that the Semi kept on rolling, it didn't stop in Caldwell, Ohio as planned? It kept rolling until it got to North Carolina where a visit from a hurricane named Florence made an unplanned visit.



Jacquie El Torro

Florence & Michael, like Irma & Maria, Harvey & Katrina were not planned for yet hit & ripped away the very heartstrings of humanity. Human loss & suffering became front & center at the force of nature, wind plus water equaled unequitable destruction. Leaving many with no place to turn to but their faith or the faith that their parents & grandparents had. On the other side of the country there has been untold drought. In the mist of the drought the Camp Fire was born to render more destruction.

When prayers just don't seem to be enough is where mission work is found. We never know when the next disaster will hit or who it will hit. We do know that when it comes the people in the midst of it become believers. They need to hold on to something bigger than they are & greater than the disaster before them. That is when they need the comforting & instructional Word of God. If you have not ordered & shipped Bibles for our Christmas Bible drive for NALC Disaster Response please do so, it is not too late. God's Word is always on time whenever it arrives. If you have not used your all of your Thrivent Action Teams, this would be a great project. Send new Bibles to *NALC Disaster Warehouse, 810 Main Street, Caldwell, OH 43724*. We as the Women of the NALC have taken on the additional mission of ensuring that Disaster Response has an adequate supply of Bibles for each disaster. That is how Missions are born by seeing a need & filling it.

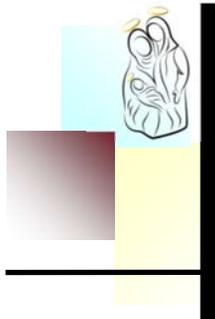
Jacqui



A New Thing Christian Church: Hurricane Michael Response

Lithonia, Georgia





Fellowship

What an amazing weekend (November 9-12) in Brookfield, Wisconsin for our WNALC Council retreat. I would like to thank Calvary Lutheran Church for being such gracious hosts. We had a wonderful time meeting everyone at the Prayer Breakfast, & it was like walking into our home churches seeing faces we already knew for Sunday service. The Council accomplished so much over the 2 days we met & let me tell you ladies – get ready for a good time at the Indianapolis Convocation. Being the Fellowship Chairperson I can say that! I would like to ask each one of you to keep our Council in your prayers for this event & our missions we voted on to receive funding – Water Mission & Disaster Response. Let me report that the Tonka Truck we had last year we have out-grown & we have a BIGGER TRUCK to fill this year! I attached a picture of the Truck riding in the front seat back to Indiana from Wisconsin to be taken to Indianapolis for the convention. We (Big Tonka & me) sang Christmas songs



all the way home!

As Fellowship Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each WNALC group to send pictures of the different events you have been doing in your home churches regardless if it is a big project or small project. Pictures help encourage other groups to be inspired to be able to do events in their congregations. Be sure to send us a description to let us know what it is your group did & what you were able to accomplish.

Now for a challenge. Several years ago, I was reading a book written by one of my favorite authors, Debbie Macomber & she wrote about the fact that

she chooses a word that inspires her for the year. I always thought “Oh, that’s neat!” & kept on trucking through life. Two years ago, the word “Faith” kept popping up during my work & throughout my everyday living. So, I embraced that word & I have to say it made a difference in my actions. So last year I took on the word “Strength”. I knew I was going to retire & would be making a lot of changes in my life & the word STRENGTH & the Bible verse from Philippians 4:13 - *‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me’* have really helped me get through this year. My challenge for each of you is to consider taking on a word to help you through your daily struggles & walk through life. You don’t have to share it with anyone, I kept my Bible verse in my daily calendar & whenever I was going through a rough patch, I read that verse & knew that I have God’s strength to get me through whatever I am facing, He gives me STRENGTH. This might be a great way to connect with other women in your WNALC. One of the exercises the Council did during one of our prayer times was to share why we chose a gift one of our members quilted & brought for us. The one I chose was a table runner that had the verse from Deuteronomy 6:5 – Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your STRENGTH. There was my word & it really made that piece more special for me. Think about your word for 2019. Open your heart to receive God’s message & he will help you choose “that word”.

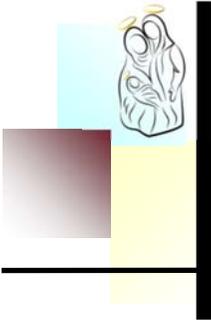


Jody Ford

In His Strength,

Jody Ford, Fellowship Committee





Spiritual Growth

Keeping Spiritual Growth Growing even when you are busy

If you are feeling the *busyness* of Christmas taking up your days, I would like to offer some insight for how you can keep growing Spiritually even in the hustle & bustle.

There are signs of Christmas all around us. In our houses, on the streets, in the stores, & where we work. When you look at the decorations & lights, take a few moments to thank Jesus for coming to earth as a baby. You can say that quick prayer every day & even several times a day.

Pick a favorite Christmas hymn. Think on the words. You can find your favorite recording of it too. When you are feeling stressed, let it run through your head & even sing or hum it as you get your tasks done. While you are commuting or driving to do errands. Leave the radio off for a while & just let the words of your hymn wash over you. Meditate on them & what they mean. You know the words, just let them come to mind. Joy to the World the Lord . . . Silent Night, Holy Night, all is . . . Away in the Manger no . . . Pick a different one each day or keep the same one all season. You can take time to think of each word separately & then think of the phrases & how

each phrase has meaning. Picture the hymn in your mind as you sing.

♪ Oh Little Town of Bethlehem how still we see they lie. . . ♪

We think of our families often during this season, especially ones we will not be able to see. As you think of them say a prayer of thanks for them & ask God to watch over them & to help them grow to be stronger in faith also.

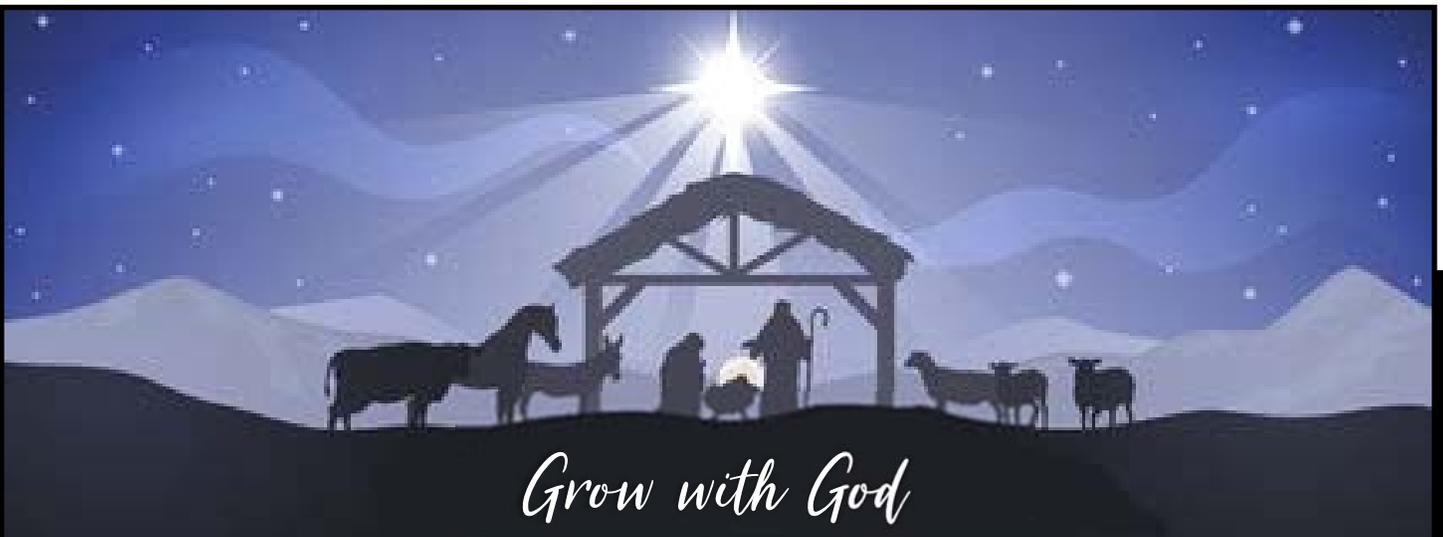
Most important to me is to find joy in all the preparation, even in the chores & the parts of the *busyness* that I would rather not have to do. Give praise that you have the ability to perform the task. Be joyful that you can do things for others.

May God bless you richly this Christmas with his peace & his joy & his love as you keep your focus on Jesus & his birth.

Jill Nesheim



Jill Nesheim





News from You!



'This will be a sign to you: You will find the babe wrapped in cloths & laying in a manger' Luke 2:12

How many ways have you seen this Bible verse expressed? How many pageants & plays have you seen? How many Christmas cards & ornaments have you had that depict this scene?



Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookfield, Wisconsin, S.A.L.T. group (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) had a special event in December taking in a marvelous Nativity Collection housed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Menomonie Falls, Wisconsin.



The church received this collection from friends of the congregation & it includes over 500 nativities from 60 different countries around the world. It was fascinating to see the variety of materials & art forms used to create the nativities. Nativities were carved, sewn, painted, sculpted, cast, created from seed pods, fur, orange peelings,

sticks, leather, glass, bark, leaves coal, metal, bullet casings, coconuts, bread, shells, paper, clay & plastic. Some were from precious materials, but most were very common items for the culture they came from.



Marcella Nelson

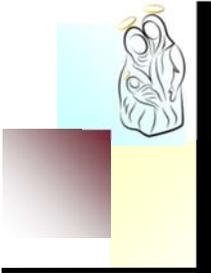
Taking in these artistic expressions from around the world I was reminded of the favorite verse "For God so loved the world that he gave his one & only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus came for all people & the Christmas Story is dear to each & every one of those artists who created the nativities. The people may have very little in common as to culture or language or background, but they do share the Christmas story truth that Christ came for them. "CHRIST IS FOR YOU" is the message that came through so loud & clear as I viewed that great collection.



May every heart prepare Him room this Holy Season & may the wonder of the Christmas story enliven your heart as you celebrate Jesus your savior born for you.

Marcella





News from You!

Rachel's Recipes



Rachel Busch Jones

It's CHRISTMAS! The best start to a day is a great breakfast, whether it's by yourself or with family, friends &/or any other company of your choice. I'm so excited this year to host my daughter's Godmother for Christmas Eve breakfast because I love to host & love to cook, especially breakfast! I have a standard combination of scrambled or fried eggs, bacon or sausage, pancakes &/or biscuits & gravy, toast, etc. I myself am not a big egg eater but we do have chickens who have run of the farm so we have an abundance of fresh eggs to cook or bake with.

This particular egg-based recipe caught my eye because it's a spin-off on a ground meat-based recipe that is a favorite of my husband's. It looks hard but it's really pretty easy. Utilize your cook time with the bacon & eggs by preparing the crescent roll ring on your pan. *This cooks great on a pizza stone or pan but can be a bit messy.*

Crescent Breakfast Ring

Ingredients:

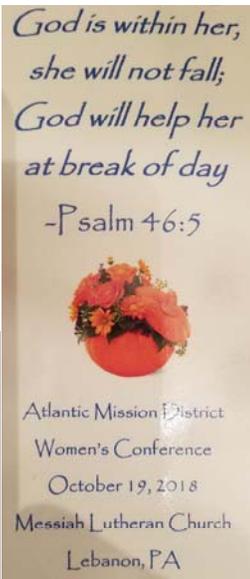
- ◆ 1 can crescent rolls
- ◆ 6 eggs, scrambled
- ◆ 8 slices bacon, cooked
- ◆ 1 cup shredded cheese of choice
- ◆ Salt & pepper to taste

Additions/Substitutions

- ◆ Use diced bell peppers or other seasonings in your eggs for extra flavor & spice!

Directions:

- ◆ Pre-heat oven to 375*
- ◆ Arrange raw crescent roll triangles into ring
- ◆ Lay one piece of bacon on each triangle
- ◆ Add 1/2 cup cheese around base of ring
- ◆ Add scrambled eggs around base of ring
- ◆ Top eggs with second 1/2 cup cheese
- ◆ Fold crescents over into middle
- ◆ Bake for ~20 minutes or until golden brown
- ◆ Take out & serve while nice & hot!



Atlantic Mission District

Lebanon, Pennsylvania

On Friday, October 19, the Atlantic MD had it's first Women's Gathering "A Woman Like Me!". We met on the morning before the Convocation began. Our ladies were greeted with a yogurt bar & a bookmark. Amy Werner started our meeting with prayer, a song & introductions. We played an icebreaker game, collecting signatures of other women who have a listed description on a Bingo board. Apryl Gordon led us through a Bible study with small groups about the women of the Bible, finding how God worked through them, & discovering how God works through us. Amy Werner distributed a folder for each congregation about WNALC & reviewed many ways of participating as the WNALC, encouraging to continue to support your congregations, & communities, Mission Bank recipients & Disaster Response. Our meeting closed with song & prayer. We had 24 women attend, representing 16 congregations.



News from You!

First English Lutheran Harvest Festival

Lennox, South Dakota

First English Lutheran Church has an annual Harvest Festival to celebrate the autumn season. Earlier in the spring, the Sunday School children each made a block for the quilting ladies to combine into quilts, which are laid out on the pews for display & then donated to local, domestic & foreign missions. Décor included an abundance of gourds as well as corn stalks from Roger & Monica Kock; the squirrels particularly enjoyed them this year.

Story submitted by Verlyss Jacobson





Info for You

MISSIONS

"Therefore go and make disciples..."

Great Commission Society: <http://thenalc.org/gcs>

Ministry Partners

- Awakening Lives to World Missions: www.alwm.org
- China Service Ventures: www.chinaserviceventures.org
- East European Missions Network: www.eemn.org
- Friends of Madagascar Mission: www.madagascarmission.org
- India Transformed/UEMI: www.indiatransformed.org
- Life Together Churches: www.lifetogetherchurches.org
- Lutheran CORE: www.lutherancore.org
- Lutheran Lay Renewal: <http://lutheranrenewal.com>
- Lutherans for Life: www.lutheransforlife.org
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries: www.lmvfm.org
- Lutheran World Relief: www.lwr.org
- Sola Publishing: www.solapublishing.org
- World Mission Prayer League: www.wmpl.org
- NALC Global Workers: <http://thenalc.org/international-mission>

Recognized Ministries:

- Commission Expeditions: www.commissionexpeditions.org
- Lutheran Bible Translators: www.lbt.org
- Malawi Orphan Care Project:
www.malawiorphancaareproject.org
- Philos Project: www.philosproject.org
- SMI Haiti: www.smihaiti.org
- Water Mission: www.watermission.org
- Wheat Ridge Ministries: www.wheatridge.org

Submit your stories, pictures, recipes, or events!

Please send your content to Rachel Busch Jones at wnalcnews@yahoo.com by January 15, 2019 for inclusion in the next edition.

Photos included in this newsletter are the property of the article's subjects. Please contact those individuals for permission to reuse.

Register Now!

If you &/or your church is not registered with the WNALC for 2019, please do so now!

There are no annual fees, membership fees or required donations - just a registration so you can receive newsletters, upcoming information, vote on business, & a way for us to contact you.

Please complete the information sheet at the end of the newsletter & send to:

Pat Dittrich
PO BOX 341
Orchard, TX 77464

PDITTRICH.WNALC@GMAIL.COM



Get news & daily Bible messages!

"WNALC-Women of the NALC"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC>



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* Council Members in Bold

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Sonshine Mission District (6)
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Southeast Texas Mission District (13)
TX (southeast) & LA

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Southwest Texas Mission District (13)
TX (southwest)

Facilitated by: Amy Werner

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Great Plains Mission District (18)
KS, MO, NE & OK
Great River Mission District (20)
IL
Virginia Mission District (6)
VA

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Northwest Mission District (7)
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Rocky Mountain Mission District (4)
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Southwest Pacific Mission District (9)
AZ, CA (south), HI, & NV (south)

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SD (east)

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NC & SC

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Canada
Michigan Mission District (8)
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North Central Ohio Mission District (16)
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Northeast Ohio Mission District (10)
OH (northeast)
Northwest Ohio Mission District (7)
OH (northwest)
Southeast Ohio Mission District (14)
OH (southeast)
Southwest Ohio Mission District (12)
OH (southwest)

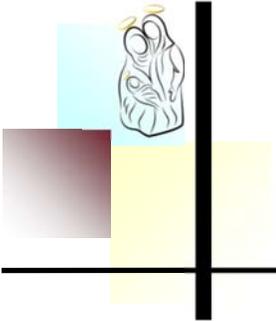
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Iowa Mission District (38)
IA
Minkota Mission District (18)
MN & ND (east)
Western Dakotas, Montana, & Wyoming Mission District (5)
ND (west), MT, SD (west) & WY





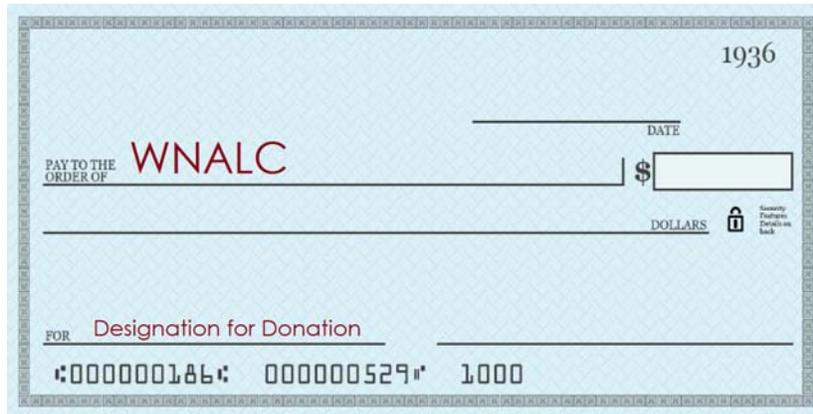
Monetary Donations



We are eternally grateful to our women within our NALC congregations who continually support the mission of the Women of the NALC. Your support assists the WNALC in providing ideas, support, and information to women's ministry programs in the NALC congregations. Please send all donations to:

WNALC
c/o North American Lutheran Church
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

Please ensure that a comment is made on the memo (for) line of each check sent to the WNALC.
See example below:



WNALC Account Designations:
General Fund* or Mission Bank**

*Donations to the WNALC General Fund: Helps with the expenses of the WNALC Website, the WNALC Council Fall Retreat, and the Annual Gathering during Lutheran Week.

**Donations to the WNALC Mission Bank Fund: Helps support the mission program with a specific focus on the mission or missions that were voted on each year by the attendees at the Annual Gathering.

Thank you again!

In Christ,

WNALC Council

Women of the NALC Annual Information Sheet

Today's Date: _____ Mission District: _____

Church Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Congregational Women's Group

Women's Organization Name: _____

Are you registering as an individual member? Please circle: Yes No

We ask for two contacts so that you can be assured of receiving the information should something happen to one contact (new email, relocation, health issue, or becomes inactive for any reason).

#1 Contact Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

#2 Contact Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

PLEASE SEND IN MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ***** ANNUALLY, in **AUGUST**. *****
MEMBERS ARE REGISTERED FOR THE AUGUST - JULY YEAR & NEED TO RENEW EACH YEAR.

- ◆ This information is used to maintain a membership roster that enables us to communicate news & activities of the WNALC & facilitates voting & ratification as needed.
- ◆ For elections & ratification processes, each congregation has one vote at the Annual Gathering.
- ◆ Individual women of NALC congregations that do not have an organized women's ministry or may be trying to organize a congregational women's ministry are encouraged to become a member of WNALC.

Complete this form & send to:

Pat Dittrich

PO Box 341

Orchard, TX 77464

PDITTRICH.WNALC@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE NOTE: All communications (newsletters, correspondence, etc.) will be sent by EMAIL so it is important that you submit a contact with an Email address. If you do not have a person with email to receive your communications, please list as your #1 Contact the church office, along with their email.