

**APRIL
2016**

Volume 3 – Issue 4

A Publication of the Mid-Northeast Mission District

western New York, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, western Maryland

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

Show Them Jesus

The Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman, Dean

One of the functions of the Office of Dean is to meet with persons who are considering seminary, with people who have interest in becoming an authorized Lay Minister of our Mission District, with pastors from other church bodies who are asking to be considered to be part of the clergy roster of the NALC. In several recent such consultations I have set hour appointments only to have the conversations move far beyond doctrinal issues. The hour appointments needed to be extended from one to three hours. Why?

Those I was interviewing have wanted to share their faith experiences of Jesus. Their desire and need to talk about where they are in their faith journey extended far beyond the questions and conversation I needed to have with them regarding orthodoxy and their competence to serve in leadership in the NALC. At such times I am both humbled and inspired by those “who know and are seeking to know” more about who Jesus is. The conversations were a high point of my day.

As we are now in the Season of Easter I encourage you to recognize how important it is to share your own encounters with Christ in your congregation, when you visit, with people in your community and for our clergy in their preaching.

We live in the midst of a culture of cynicism, accusation, the pointing of the finger at others. Many live in despair about the direction of the country and of the church. In our information society there is a

hunger in people to meet a “Living Savior” when they come to our churches and when they talk to you. If we can’t show them Jesus, what do we have to give? Doctrinal purity only goes so far! More information? ...they can find that on the internet.

Churches that want to grow need to be doing more than telling others that they should be attending church. Churches that love the Lord need to be doing more than sitting together wringing their hands and bemoaning that these are not “the good old days”

People need to encounter the “Living Christ” in your life, in your congregation, in your acts of charity, love and service.

when people came to church. Pastors who want to preach effectively need to be doing more than explaining the text and telling someone else’s stories about the meaning of faith.

Remember? After Easter it took more than seeing the evidence or hearing the testimony of the women for the disciples to believe. It was after they were encountered by Jesus in the Upper Room,

on the Road to Emmaus, when they went back to their fishing business and Jesus found them that everything changed.

People need to encounter the “Living Christ” in your life, in your congregation, in your acts of charity, love and service. We serve a Living Savior. This month I challenge you and us to live, believe and act accordingly – “Show them Jesus.”

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman, Dean

MID-NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT OFFICES

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PRAYER REQUESTS

This month, our prayers for **Mrs. Margherita King and her family** at the recent death of her father-in-law, Robert King (82) of Butler, PA. *Margherita serves on our mission district council.*

Please visit our mission district web site at

www.midnemdnalc.org



**Love. Grow. Serve.
In Christ.**

OUR LEADERSHIP

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**JOIN US IN OUR MISSION
DISTRICT FACEBOOK GROUP!**



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE TRAINING

Saturday, April 23, 2016 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(Registration @ 8:30 a.m.)

\$25 per person – checks payable to NALC Disaster Response

(No fee for seminarians)

Pre-registration required by the April 15 deadline!

St. Paul Lutheran Church (Trauger) - 108 Dutch Hill Rd., Latrobe, PA 15650

NALC Disaster Response Task Force is providing this disaster preparedness training. These educational workshops will provide training to volunteers in each participating congregation, preparing each to form disaster volunteer teams. The vision is that each Mission District assist in the formation of teams and the preparedness training. **Recognized credentials will be provided.**

Disaster Volunteer training includes the following:

Level One

- Unskilled disaster response for debris removal and basic information on FEMA regulations
- Assessing congregational preparedness
- Assessing personal skills and gifts
- Initial response

Level Two specialized trainings include:

- Case Management/Coordinated Assistance Network – how to identify and track client needs and the assistance they receive – BECOME A VOLUNTEER CASE MANAGER!
- Donations Management/Aid Matrix – how to coordinate and organize donated materials –
- Volunteer Management/Disaster Response Database – how to identify the skills of each volunteer and address risk management issues – FORM A DISASTER VOLUNTEER TEAM & HELP REBUILD HOMES!
- Spiritual and Emotional Care – how to identify and document qualified volunteers to provide spiritual care – PROVIDE SPIRITUAL CARE TO THOSE HURTING AND IN NEED – THOSE AFFECTED BY DISASTER AS WELL AS TEAM MEMBERS!

Training fee includes:

- NALC Volunteer T-Shirt (*indicate size on registration form*)
- NALC Volunteer I.D. Badge
- CD Rom of training materials
- Certificate

LUNCH INCLUDED

**DON'T MISS THIS FANTASTIC TRAINING
 PROVIDED BY THE NALC DISASTER TEAM!**



AGENDA

8:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9:00 -11:30 A.M.

LEVEL I TRAINING

-What does the NALC do when disaster strikes?

-Assessing congregational preparedness and personal skills and gifts.

-Initial response.

11:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

LUNCH (included)

12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

LEVEL II TRAINING

-Volunteer case management

-Donations management

-Volunteer team coordination

-Spiritual and emotional care

**REGISTRATION
 DEADLINE IS
 APRIL 15**

Extra registration forms are available for download on our web site at

www.midnemdnalc.org

MID-NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT

ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT

JUNE 9-10, 2016

North American Lutheran Seminary

311 11th St., Ambridge, PA

**In conjunction with
TRINITY SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY'S
ANCIENT EVANGELICAL FUTURE CONFERENCE**



This year's conference will consider the goal of Christian formation, the classical resources of Christian formation, and ways of implementing these resources for the making of Christian disciples in our time. Framed in the context of Christian worship and community, this conference promises to inform, encourage and refresh all who attend. Speakers scheduled to present are Peter Leithart, Michael Gorman, D.H. Williams, Greg Peters, and Julia-Marie Halderman.

Lunch each day is included along with coffee and scones following morning prayer.

**CONFERENCE/RETREAT FEE IS COVERED BY MISSION DISTRICT FUNDS FOR ALL CLERGY ON OUR ROSTER
AND FOR PASTORS SERVING IN OUR CONGREGATIONS.**

REGISTRATION (required!) IS VIA MISSION DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

AT 724-787-7780 OR rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com

AGENDA

Thursday, June 9

- 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Coffee/Tea and Scones (included)
9:30 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks-The Very Rev. Dr. Justyn Terry -The Rev. Dr. Joel Scandrett
9:45 AM Session One—Paul and the Re-Formation of the Church- Dr. Michael Gorman
11:15 AM Break and Book signing with Michael Gorman
12:00 PM **Lunch (on site with mission district dean and clergy – included)**
1:30 PM Session Two—Christian Formation in the Ancient Church- Dr. Daniel H. Williams
3:00 PM Book signing with D.H. Williams
3:15 PM Workshops
4:30 PM Evening Prayer
5:00 PM **Dinner out (with mission district dean and clergy – fellowship)**
7:00 PM Session Three and Public Lecture—Making Martyrs: Christian Formation in an Apocalyptic Age
8:00 PM Book Signing with Peter Leithart

Friday, June 10

- 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Coffee/Tea and Scones (included)
9:30 AM Session Four—Forming the Faithful in the Christian Family
11:00 AM Workshops
12:15 PM **Lunch (on site with mission district dean and clergy – included)**
1:30 PM Session Five— Whither the Monks? Spiritual Formation in Christian Community
3:00 PM Break and Book Signing with Greg Peters
3:45 PM Session Six—All Keynote Speakers
4:30 PM Evening Prayer

LODGING OPTIONS

Cobblestone Inn and Suites – Located adjacent to Trinity property. Rooms are \$85.99 per night **until May 6, 2016**. Call the Cobblestone to make reservations 724.266.7100 www.staycobblestone.com

Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport – Discounted rate of \$119 per night. The hotel is 10 miles from the Trinity campus, and free shuttle service will be provided by the hotel on request. The discounted rates will only be available **until 5:00 pm on May 6, 2016**. 412-262-2400

Red Roof Inn, Pittsburgh North – Located at 20009 US RTE 19 and Marguerite Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066, about 14 miles from Trinity School for Ministry. Starting at \$69 per night. 724-776-5670

*If you are in need of financial assistance for lodging expenses, please contact the dean directly.
Contact information on page 2 of this publication.*

Around the Mission District....

Dean's Notes

+ Many of you know that after 51 years of successful and fruitful ministry, Youth Encounter is ending its ministry the end of April. Several factors have contributed to this decision including declining numbers of youth in the church, an increasingly competitive landscape for our youth's time and energy, and financial struggles for some years to fund the ministry of Youth Encounter. The Board of Directors and Youth Encounter staff has seen a decline in youth participation and in overall support decline for the past 10-15 years which have created unsustainable debt. On behalf of all of us in the Mid-Northeast Mission District, Thank You to all who have served in this ministry! Through the life changing ministry of Youth Encounter many of our youth came to serve as pastors, musicians and teachers in our congregations. A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the Ministry of Youth Encounter will be held on March 31, 2016 from 7:00-10:00 PM at Discover Lutheran Church – 1400 81st Ave N, Brooklyn Park MN. Echelon, Lost and Found, Bill Yanker, and many other speakers and Christian bands will be present to praise God for all that He has done through Youth Encounter. In our Mission District we have a strong Youth Organization, needed now more than ever.

+The Board of Regents of our North American Lutheran Church Seminary in Ambridge, has voted to establish a support team to promote the seminary, its mission and ministry. The support team will consist of two representatives from each of our Mission Districts. The support team will meet three to four times a year at the Seminary Center. As Dean I am charged with recommending two people from our Mid-Northeast Mission District to serve on the support team (clergy or lay). If you are interested in promoting seminary education please let me know by April 8th. I will forward your name to Dr. Amy Schiffrin; the Board of Regents will make appointments in mid April.

+Congratulations to Pastor Mack Smith who celebrated his 35th Anniversary of Ordination on March 7th. Pastor Smith writes... "Hello Friends and Family, I just wanted to let you know I just celebrated another milestone in my life, 35 years in the ministry of Word and Sacrament. I have the scars to prove it, but all is good. Continue to pray for me as I work on the next 35 years. God Bless You All!" (Pastor Smith serves as Mission Developer at Christ Lutheran Church in East Amherst, New York)

+ Following interview, Mr. Greg Furer, is now being recommended to the Executive Council as an Authorized Lay Minister of the North American Lutheran Church. Greg is a financial consultant for PNC Investments and lives in Fox Chapel. He is now authorized to serve our congregations as a pulpit supply. (Phone 724-822-9800)

+Interested in starting a House Church, Planting a Congregation? A Church Planting and Renewal Conference will be held on April 2, 2016, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM for the NALC at Reformation Lutheran Church in Culpeper, Virginia. If interested let me know and the Mission will help with travel expenses.

+Our new congregation NALC Website program is now available to our congregations for consideration. The program is user friendly and has attractive graphics and layout. There is a significant discount for congregations who sign-up by May 31, 2016. Contact NALC Communications Coordinator, Pastor Mark Ryman for an application. (Mobile Phone: 536-684-5634)

WOMEN of the NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH of the MID-NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT

ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING – SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

**\$ 6.00
Lunch**

Holy Trinity
819 Columbia Ave.
Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-6541

Guest speaker:
Greg Furer
"Under the Bridge Ministry"

If able, bring the
following donations:
sweat pants, sweat
shirts, socks

RSVP to Alice Stitt
724-543-3965
alice7astitt@gmail.com
or text 724-422-4299

CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT(S)
Mission District WNALC Spring Meeting	April 2, 2016		Holy Trinity Grove City, PA	Alice Stitt 724-543-3965 alice7astitt@gmail.com
Bible Bowl	April 9, 2016	1 p.m.	First Washington, PA	Pr. Mark Werner revmaw@wpa.net Pr. Nila Cogan Incogan@comcast.net
Disaster Preparedness & Response Training	April 23, 2016	9-3 8:30 registration	St. Paul (Trauger) Latrobe, PA	Mission district office rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
Clergy Retreat	June 9-10, 2016		NALS Ambridge, PA	Mission district office rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
Mission District Council and church visits	June 23-24, 2016		western New York	Dean Towberman atowberman@zoominternet.net
Mission District Youth Mission Trip	July 8-12, 2016		Nile at Rochester, NY & Niagara Falls, NY	Pr. Nila Cogan Incogan@comcast.net
Youth Camp	July 26-28, 2016		St. Thomas Grove Hooversville, PA	Pr. Nila Cogan Incogan@comcast.net
NALC LUTHERAN WEEK	August 9-12, 2016		Anaheim, CA	www.thenalc.org

BARNETT LENTEN LOVE OFFERING

*Deadline for all love offering
donations is Saturday, April 2.
Please make checks payable to
"MNE Mission District" noting
"Barnett" on memo line.*



Photo: Beverly Wright Miller

YOUTH CAMP

JULY 26-28, 2016

St. Thomas Grove
Hooversville, PA

Theme: Rooted in Christ

\$40 includes meals & activities!

Registrations due July 1st

*More information and the
registration form on our website*

Bioethics: Good and Evil?

Presenter: Scott Stiegemeier

Saturday, April 9 - \$10 inc. lunch
St. Luke (LCMS), Cabot, PA

Detailed information, agenda,
and registration at
www.stlukecabot.org

We are pleased to announce that
the Youth Mission trip garnered
enough registrations to FILL the
charter bus with 40 youth and adult
chaperones and will depart July 8!

MARCH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY (omitted in previous issue – the office regrets the error)

Mack Smith, Jr. '81 (35 years). Pr. Smith serves as Mission Developer at Christ, East Amherst, NY.

APRIL ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES


There are no April anniversaries on record with the office.

From the office...

- When sending a check, please designate it on its memo line, by enclosing an explanation, or by ensuring it is attached to a check ledger print-out in order to ensure its correct usage.
- Mission district merchandise orders are CLOSED for this round of ordering. If you ordered any items, you can expect to receive them in early May.

PASTORS & COUNCILS –

Please share this newsletter by posting it and including announcements in bulletins and newsletters. Let your members know that it's available on our web site!



2nd Annual Bethesda Gala

*Bethesda Foundation for Children requests the honor of your presence
at the second annual Bethesda Gala. All proceeds to benefit Bethesda Scholarship Program.*

Riverside Inn
1 Fountain Street
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403

Friday, April 8th at 7PM **Cocktail Reception at 6:30pm**

♦ *VIP Sponsor Opportunities Available* ♦ *Formal Attire* ♦ *Music by Trinity Jazz Orchestra*

ADMISSION: \$60/PERSON - \$100/COUPLE **Contact David for more details 814-724-7510 x 228**

MID-NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT

Administrative Office

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www.midnemdnalc.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED