



Southeast Ohio Mission District

Dean's Newsletter

April 2018

Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying a “lighter” week and some rest as you recharge following the busyness of Holy Week. Each month, I will continue to send information about what is happening in in our church, both locally and around the NALC. My hope is to get as much information in one place as possible. To that end, please send me anything that needs to be shared with pastors and/or congregations in the mission district by the end of each month.

SE Ohio Mission District News

A Service of Praise and Dedication for the new Oromo Church building is planned for Sunday, April 22 at 3:00 pm. with dinner to follow. Invitations have been sent to all Ohio NALC congregations. The address is 4888 Refugee Rd., Baltimore, OH, 43105. Please RSVP to Pastor Kansa Deresa at kanyesus1@gmail.com and be sure to include number attending and whether you will be staying for dinner. We continue to give thanks to God for His faithfulness!



Please Welcome Rev. David Hill as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Columbus. He previously served at Grace of Calvary Lutheran Church in Glendora, California. Pastor David, Anna Marie, and son Ryan moved to Grove City at the end of March, and David began his ministry at St. John on Easter Sunday.

He will join us for our April clergy/lay ministers meeting and will be installed as Pastor of St. John at a special service on the afternoon of Saturday, April 28, 2:00 pm, St. John, 2745 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43204. You may reach Pr. Hill at ohiohills@twc.com.

Next Clergy/Lay Leaders Gathering will be Friday, April 13 from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm at UALC, The Church on Lytham, 2300 Lytham Rd., Columbus OH 43220. Pr. Tom Brodbeck of Grace, Springfield and member of the NALC's Discipleship Team will be with us to begin to engage our group in a process of Life-To-Life Discipleship. A catered lunch from DaVinci's Café in Upper Arlington will be served so that we can continue to meet through lunch. Cost of \$10 includes drinks, salad, pasta, and dessert.

The Executive Council of the Mission District will meet on Thursday, April 19 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Logan. Agenda includes approval of a ministry plan and budget for the coming fiscal year that begins in May, as well as nominees for clergy position on the council (2018-2021) and lay representative to the Ohio Mission Region Executive Council (2018-2021),

to be elected at the annual meeting on May 5.

Funding the Mission District – Recently you, your council presidents and treasurers received a letter from me, on behalf of the MD Council, thanking you for your faithfulness in giving to the Oromo Church Appeal and requesting that you consider your congregation's giving to the mission district. We want to be able to help pastors in small congregations attend the annual pastors' conference, assist mission congregations in sending delegates to the annual convocation, provide deserving congregations with Life-To-Life Discipleship Grants, and more. But we need your help. If your church has not made a generous donation to the mission district this year, please consider doing so now. And prayerfully consider designating .5% of your budget in the coming fiscal year for this purpose. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer: Dan Allman, 1560 Cree Ct., Grove City, OH 43123 with "SEOMD" in the memo line.

Your Newsletters, Please! As dean of the Mission District, I would love to keep up with what is happening in your congregations by receiving your newsletter. Please add me to your distribution list, whether by email or U.S. mail using the contact information below.

Southeast Ohio Mission District Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 5, 11:20 am – 12:00 pm. as part of the Ohio Mission Region Convocation at Grace, Westerville (see more information below) Business will include the approval of a ministry plan and budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1. We will also be electing a clergy representative to the Mission District Executive Council, and a lay representative to the Ohio Mission Region Executive Council.

Prayer Requests – Please forward requests as they arise. This month we pray for...
St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City; in call process for Senior Pastor.
Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, in call process for Senior Pastor.
Pastor Dave Hill, as he begins his ministry at St. John Lutheran in Columbus.

Ohio Mission Region

The Ohio Mission Region Annual Convocation will be held on Saturday, May 5 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westerville, OH from 9:00 am - 4:15 pm. This is a time for equipping our leaders, doing the business of the OMR, and holding the annual meetings of our 5 mission districts. Detailed brochures with registration information have been forwarded electronically to your congregations.

The theme for the day is "*Beyond Our Fears*" from Ephesians 6:18-19, focusing on prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit for bold mission in Jesus' name. Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, Director for International Mission, will be the keynote speaker, with worship led by the Oromo Evangelical Church of Columbus, and equipping workshops offered on a variety of timely topics related to the theme. Cost is \$30 per person which includes continental breakfast and lunch (received before April 20th). \$40 if received after April 20th. (Vendors: \$20 per person) Checks payable to: *Ohio Mission Region – NALC*. The OMR will be electing a Secretary for the Executive Council, which includes officers, the five deans, and a lay person from each Mission District.

The Ohio Mission Region Website has been overhauled and given a new look! If you haven't checked it out in a while, this is a great place to find updated information on what is happening

in Ohio and in our 5 Mission Districts, which each have their own page on the site. Go to www.thenalco.org.

Pulpit Supply Guidelines may be found on the Ohio Mission Region website at www.thenalco.org. Based on mileage and number of services, compensation is the same for either clergy or lay, and includes both preaching and leading the liturgy. Other negotiated expenses need to be discussed for those who need overnight hotel accommodations or have special situations. Mileage: congregations will pay for round-trip mileage at the IRS rate when all services are on the same day. Compensation: \$135 for one service; \$75 for a second service; \$50 for each additional service.

Across the NALC

Funding for Full-time Director of Domestic Missions: Bishop Bradosky recently asked for donations from Mission Districts, mission teams and congregations to help us move this position from part-time to full-time. He is asking for a response by Pentecost Sunday. I have attached the letter to this email as well, in case you missed it. The time is now to commit to this new position—please help us to fund this full-time for the next three years!

Nominations Being Received for 2018 Convocation Elections: Please encourage congregations to consider making nominations for 2018 elections at Convocation. The Convocation will elect two members of the NALC Executive Council (one lay person and one pastor) and two members of the Court of Adjudication, all to four-year terms. The Convocation will also elect three members to the North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents for six-year terms. Both pastors and lay members may be elected to the Court of Adjudication and Board of Regents. Brief descriptions of the duties of each position are available on the NALC website. Send nominations to nominations@thenalc.org.

Congregational Reports: If you have not completed your congregation's Annual Report for 2017, please do so now. Accurate information from congregations is essential to assessment, evaluation and long-range planning. We're shooting for 100% in the SEOMD! Congregations should contact the NALC Administrative Office at 651-633-6004 or nalc.mnoffice@thenalc.org if they did not receive the report email or if they have any questions about how to complete the report. The congregational report is also available on the NALC website at <https://thenalc.org/congregational-report/>.

2018 Lutheran Week: Online registration is now LIVE! Hotel is Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, August 13-17. Theme is "*The Holy Spirit: Calling, Gathering, Enlightening, Sanctifying.*" Scripture theme is Acts 1:8. Keynote speaker is Sherry Weddell, founder of the Roman Catholic Siena Institute, Colorado Springs, CO, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples* and *Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples*. She will be bringing Katherine Coolidge, the Siena Institute Called and Gifted Coordinator.

Clergy/Lay Representation at Convocation: As noted in the Feb. NALC News, we have never reached the 50/50 balance of lay/clergy representation at an NALC Convocation. There is usually 20% more clergy present and voting than laity. In that regard, I encourage you to elect or appoint lay. Also note: \$20,000 was allocated for scholarships to support those who wish to attend Convocation as delegates but need financial support. An application process is being developed and may include recommendations from the local MD dean. Please watch for more info.

NALC Structural Vision: Please be aware this is an evolving “vision.” No resolutions for restructuring or constitutional changes are being presented at this Summer’s Convocation. The vision is being continually revised and reshaped as input is received. The intention is to have the vision prepared by the end of Bishop John’s tenure, and it MAY be implemented by the new bishop and executive council if and when necessary and reasonable.

PCAT Teams – The Ohio Mission Region has a joint Pastoral Care and Transition Team that is available to you in times of congregational conflict or transition, including the call process. Please contact Pr. Amy Little to arrange for two trained PCAT team members to work with your congregation free of charge. pramylittle@gmail.com.

Mission Updates:

The Academy – One of the most consistent pieces of feedback given by congregational leaders is: “I didn’t learn this in school, and I really needed to.” To that end, we are utilizing the gifts that God has given us already – NALC leaders sharing their knowledge with other NALC leaders. For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2GQqzth>

Mission Driven Update – One of the Core Values of the NALC is to be Mission Driven. With the five national mission teams and the NALC Mission Office, we are hard at work trying to develop resources that meet the needs that you articulate as you are serving on the front lines. To assist us in that pursuit, a request for information has been sent to all of our pastors. Please complete this so that we can serve you more effectively: <http://bit.ly/2sOd7Ms>

Mission Festival Update – We are excited to announce our keynote speaker for 2018 Lutheran Week: <http://bit.ly/2sJXNA4>

Renewal Webinar Series – The NALC is committed to the renewal of all our congregations, working to develop and deliver resources that challenge and open the NALC to the work of the Holy Spirit in our ministry and mission. Join us for this free webinar series! Details: <http://bit.ly/2rIMEVY>

Youth and Family Ministry Information:

faithwebbing.com – Gary and Laurie Pecuch are ready to connect with you on all things related to Children's, Youth, and/or Family Ministry, through the resource and service links, the oodles of template forms and files, Safeguarding tutorials, or through archived webinars and video clips. You can connect with them on the nalcnetwork.com Faith Webbing Group or directly through faithwebbing@gmail.com.

Webinars – Gary and Laurie offer monthly webinars during the school year on topics related to youth and family ministry. Webinars are also archived for future viewing. Questions? Contact Gary and Laurie at faithwebbing@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Pr. Jeff Morlock



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