



## Southeast Ohio Mission District

### Dean's Newsletter

July 2018

Friends and Colleagues,

In this and upcoming issues, I'll be highlighting unique or "signature ministries" of some of our congregations in the mission district. The sharing of resources, ideas, and creativity are ways that we can bless each other as we seek to be and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Please feel free to copy and share this newsletter with your council, staff, ministry leaders, and congregation. This month, I asked Pastor Tonya Brittain of First English Lutheran in Marysville, to share what her congregation is doing in outreach. See the article below.

Godspeed,

Pr. Jeff Morlock  
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#### **First English Lutheran Church, Marysville, OH** Outreach Ministries

##### **GBOG (Gospel Boots On the Ground) Sundays:**

Disciples are encouraged to wear work clothes to worship on designated Sundays. Worship is a slightly abbreviated form of Word and Sacrament. Following worship, we literally "go in peace to serve the Lord". Due to mobility concerns, there is always an "in-house" option of something folks can do at the church to help with outreach, such as VBS preparation detail, bagging supplies for the giving tree in the yard, prepping supplies for disaster relief, and more. Most worshipers are sent out into the community to complete service projects like lawn care, domestic projects, or furniture removal for a house in need of repair before imminent condemnation.

Community projects are coordinated between the pastor and local agencies, which receive more requests than they can cover. These agencies "vet" the projects, ensuring that the most pressing community needs are addressed for those who cannot fend for themselves. This means last minute assignments at times, as some projects are extremely time sensitive. With clear communication between local agencies and churches, the community is receiving more aid. Every GBOG experience is completed by 1:00 or 1:30 pm in teams of 5 to 20 people, and provides opportunity for individuals to experience the love of God through helpful action. Prayer is offered with each visit, and a card of encouragement containing our contact information is left with them. Through GBOG, disciples have an organized way of getting outside of their comfort zones, reaching out to individuals in the name of Christ, and seeds of faithful discipleship propagate for both the servant and the served.

**Savior Share:** Each Wednesday, a brief Holy Communion service is offered from noon until approximately 12:30, providing the community an opportunity to receive Jesus' body and blood and a message of grace during the week. Once mostly a form of janitorial service, one of our local prison systems sends inmates to the church to aid in cleaning. Now, FELC has purposefully changed that into a different form of prison ministry.

Each Wednesday, West Central Community Correctional sends the incarcerated to the church at 9:00 am, and picks them up at 1:00 pm. We devote an hour of their community service time to serving them lunch, and worshipping together. Usually over a home-cooked lunch, we discuss their release, support system, faith lives, families, and how we can help them to reacclimate in the area to which they will go after release. Often, we collect sizing information so that a work-ready start wardrobe can be provided for them upon release. At noon, they are warmly invited to participate in worship with us, and only two in two years of weekly worship have declined. Five have been baptized in that time! Due to regulations presented by the prison, the church must provide adequate personnel per prisoner, which has also provided sponsorship to the newly baptized that has continued one-on-one support, post-prison.

God is literally sending prison ministry to the church, two by two. There is never pressure to answer questions or to attend worship, and we are aware that for some, worship is another thirty minutes of non-labor. However, the seeds are planted in this way, and God's results have been tremendous. Several have received jobs through the connections made, so that West Central now has a core group of local businesses, agencies, and pastors who meet periodically about re-entry concerns and efforts. Local businesses are beginning to be helpful in supplying clothing at much reduced rates so that the church can be more helpful to our guests. This ministry developed out of a former 'janitorial service' for the church, and the Holy Spirit is at work through it!

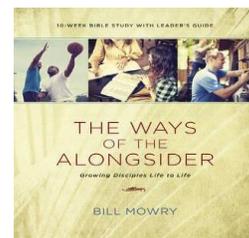
- Pastor Tonya Brittain

## SE Ohio Mission District News



**Pastor Mike Giese** will be installed at New Life Lutheran Church in Gallipolis this Sunday, July 22 at 9:30 am at a combined morning service.

**Next Clergy/Certified Lay Leaders Gathering** will be Friday, August 24th from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at Groveport Zion Lutheran Church, 6014 Groveport Rd., Groveport, OH 43125, followed by lunch. Lunch plan TBA in August newsletter. Thanks to Pr. Matt Cox for hosting and Pr. Tonya Brittain for leading the discussion on Chapter 2 of [The Ways of the Alongsider: Growing Disciples Life to Life](#).



**The SE Ohio Mission District Council** will meet on Thursday, August 30, 6:30 pm at UALC, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, 2300 Lytham Rd., Columbus, OH 23220. Those who represent the mission district on the council are as follows:

Dean – Pr. Jeff Morlock (Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, Columbus) -- term ending in 2020  
Secretary – Pr. Scott Smith (St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Logan) -- term ending in 2021  
Treasurer -- Daniel Allman (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grove City) -- term ending in 2019  
Lay Council Member – Bill Kulju (Grace Lutheran Church, Westerville) -- term ending in 2019  
Lay Council Member – Jan Bartel (St. John Lutheran Church, Columbus) -- term ending in 2020  
Lay Council Member – David Seamon (New Life, Gallipolis) -- term ending in 2021  
Ordained Council Member – Pr. Orrey McFarland (Grace Lutheran, Thornville) -- term ending in 2019  
Ordained Council Member – Pr. Matt Cox (Groveport Zion and Zion, Obetz) -- term ending in 2020  
Ordained Council Member – Pr. David Hill (St. John Lutheran Church, Columbus) – term ending in 2021

### Installations in August:

**Pr. Seth Jersild** will be installed as Senior Pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City on Sunday, August 19 at a 2:30 pm service.

**Pr. Steve Turnbull** will be installed as Senior Pastor of UALC, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 26 at combined services at Lytham Rd. (9:00 am) and Mill Run (10:30 am).



- Pr. Dave and Pam Mann and family at the death of infant grandson, Henry and son, Josh.
- Pr. Seth Jersild and people of St. John's, Grove City as they begin a new chapter in ministry.
- Pr. Steve Turnbull and UALC as Steve begins his ministry there this month.
- Congregation of Grace, Westerville as they enter into an interim season and appoint a call committee for their next senior pastor. Interim pastor is Rev. Tim Loehrke.
- First English, Marysville as they serve their community and build kingdom relationships through intentional outreach efforts.
- Pr. Scott Ness on the submission draft of his new book entitled, Sacramental Disciples: Joining Jesus on the Journey. Please pray that God's will be done as he considers publishing options

## OHIO MISSION REGION

**Ohio Mission Region Executive Council** will meet on Friday, August 10, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at First English Lutheran Church in Mansfield. The OMR Council consists of deans and lay representatives of Ohio's 5 mission districts, and serves as a point of contact and organization for joint mission efforts across the state. Karen Bently (John's, Grove City) and I represent Southeast Ohio on this council.

**Looking for Congregational Resources?** Whether you need a supply pastor for Sunday worship or a Pastoral Care and Transition Team to help your congregation in a time of pastoral vacancy, **The Ohio Mission Region Website** can help. Discover more about Life-2-Life Discipleship as well as information about what is happening in Ohio in our 5 Mission Districts at [www.thenalcoho.org](http://www.thenalcoho.org).

**Pastor Dan Powell**, who served as our first dean of the Ohio Mission District, and more recently as dean of the Southwest Ohio Mission District, has finished his last term as dean. **Pr. Mark Daniels** of Living Water, Springboro, was elected as dean of the Southwest MD at the recent convocation in May.

## ACROSS THE NALC



**The NALC International Office** has been moved and is no longer housed at The Church at Mill Run, in our mission district. As of this week, the International Offices (which includes financial office) are housed at 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220, New Brighton, MN 55112-2202. Phone: 888-551-7254 (toll free); 651-633-6004. Fax: 614-777-5193. This consolidation illustrates our commitment to flexibility, investing in ministry rather than buildings, and to renting only the space we need in order to make ministry happen.

**NALC Executive Council has adjusted the number of voting delegates** congregations may send to Convocation, seeking to balance lay/clergy participation closer to 50/50, as constitutionally stipulated. Congregations able to send more delegates were contacted in May. Please be encouraged to send a full

complement of delegates from your congregation, and contact me or the NALC If you need a financial scholarship in order to accomplish this.

**The NALC's 2018 Lutheran Week** includes the annual Theological Conference, Mission Festival, and NALC Convocation. Online registration is live at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org). The events are being held at the Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center, August 13-17.

This year's convocation theme is "*The Holy Spirit: Calling, Gathering, Enlightening, Sanctifying.*" Scripture theme is Acts 1:8, and the keynote speaker is Sherry Weddell, founder of the Roman Catholic Siena Institute in Colorado Springs. Sherry is the author of *Forming Intentional Disciples* and *Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples*. Katherine Coolidge, Siena Institute Called and Gifted Coordinator, will also be on hand.



**Each Mission District will meet separately as part of Lutheran Week in Denver.** Delegates and guests from Southeast Ohio will gather on Wednesday, August 15 from 7:30--9:00 pm. to engage a process of visioning and planning for our district based on what we heard that day, using materials provided by the denomination.

**Schedule a FREE Stewardship Workshop in your Mission District:** The NALC Living and Giving Stewardship team is prepared to offer "free" stewardship workshops for Mission Districts to strengthen and encourage stewardship within households, congregations, Mission Districts and the NALC as a whole. These workshops will be practical, hands-on, nuts-and-bolts seminars asking the question asked by so many at the recent Pastors' Conference, "How do I organize and lead a congregational stewardship program?" You can schedule a Mission District workshop NOW—email Pr. Dona Johnson, [revdonajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:revdonajohnson@gmail.com), phone 513-259-4429.

**NALC Executive Council will meet July 23-24, Sioux Falls, SD:** This meeting will be focused largely on the proposed budget and other items related to the upcoming Lutheran Week.

**Congregational Reports:** Thankfully, congregational reports are still coming in! Thanks for your help getting congregations to return their reports. We have received 298 reports. That's a 71% return rate! We are hoping to reach at least 75%!

Congregations should contact the NALC International Office at 651-633-6004 or [nalc.mnoffice@thenalc.org](mailto: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/>.

**NALC Structure Vision:** Presentation will be made at the upcoming NALC Convocation, with time for conversation and response. The only action at Convocation will be reception of the report. Please be assured all responses and concerns are being heard and considered. We continue to be in a time of consensus building regarding the needs of the NALC, the vision and implementation of the vision.

**PCAT Teams and Gathering, Sept. 11-12, 2018:** Based upon replies from deans, we now have a working list of NALC PCAT team members. There are 62 serving on PCAT teams, representing 17 Mission Districts (Ohio Mission Region, with 5 Mission Districts, has one PCAT team.) We have scheduled a gathering of PCAT team members from all Mission Districts for orientation, sharing, continuing education and encouragement. We are not anticipating larger PCAT teams will send every member. We recommend two or three from each team, who will then report back to the team as a whole. The gathering will begin at 1 pm, Tuesday, Sept. 11 and end at noon, Wednesday, Sept. 12. We are hoping this will only require one night away from the parish for most

participants. It is not expected that deans will participate in this gathering, although deans are welcome if they are serving as PCAT team members or are interested. It would be helpful if MDs could cover the cost of PCAT team members' travel and hotel in Columbus, OH.

**2019 NALC Pastors' Conference, Feb. 19-21, Crowne Plaza Orlando Universal Hotel** - Clergy, mark your calendars now. There were almost 200 participants this year, and it is hoped that this important annual event in the life of our church will continue to grow.

## **Mission Updates:**

**Senior Ministry Update** – Join us for the second annual Senior Ministry Conference this October! For details, please visit: <https://missions.nalcnetwork.com/senior-ministry-conference-2018>. For additional resources in the area of Senior Ministry, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2soGEtt>

**The Academy** – By NALC Leaders, For NALC Leaders. Please join us the first Tuesday of each month at 11 AM EST. Topics vary from month to month, but are addressed according to the articulated needs of NALC leaders. For details: <https://bit.ly/2J2a3nG>

**Mission Driven Updates** – For additional, real time updates with stories from across the NALC, please visit: <https://missions.nalcnetwork.com>

## **Youth and Family Ministry Updates:**

**Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium** – Our keynote speaker this year is Thomas O'Neill, a philanthropist at Second Harvest Food Bank and former president of Youth Encounter. Involved in ministry to young people for much of his life, Thomas will be addressing how to build a ministry to young people through building service projects and building relationships. Join us during Lutheran Week! To register, please visit: <https://www.thenalc.org/2018-lutheran-week>

**Online Courses** - Beginning in September 2018, online courses in family, youth, and children's ministry will be made available for free to partner congregations. <https://missions.nalcnetwork.com/online-courses>.

**faithwebbing.com** – Gary and Laurie Pecuch are ready to connect with you on all things related to children, youth, and family ministry, through the resource and service links, oodles of templates, forms and files, Safeguarding tutorials, or through archived webinars and video clips. You can connect with them on the [nalcnetwork.com](http://nalcnetwork.com) Faith Webbing Group or directly through [faithwebbing@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:faithwebbing@gmail.com).

**The Nexus Institute** – The Nexus Institute is an annual theological conference for deeper-thinking high school students held each summer at Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. Gary Pecuch attended this past June and gives it two thumbs up! Interested? Contact Gary or visit [thenexusinstitute.org](http://thenexusinstitute.org). Through an Eli Lilly grant, the experience is free of charge except for travel to and from Des Moines.