



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we head into the Summer months, I pray that you will find a rhythm in your ministries that includes time for rest and recreation. Our culture equates busyness with importance, and measures human worth by accomplishments – the very antithesis of the gospel. Opting into this mentality can isolate us, shrink our souls, and lead us to dark places. Even Our Lord Jesus was not immune to the constant pressure of the crowds, and of unrealistic expectations.

So *“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” (Mark 1:35-37).* That is what it can feel like some days in ministry. Yet Jesus shows us how to live with margin so that we can live on mission. The gospels reveal that this was His regular practice, for at least four reasons that are relevant to our own lives. Silence and solitude allow us to... 1) be reminded of our identity, 2) reflect on our relationships, 3) listen for direction from the Father, and 4) receive energy and power from the Spirit.

When you look at life through a microscope, everything else is smaller than you. YOU are the biggest object, and you have the illusion that you are in control. But when you look at life through a telescope, you are looking at something MUCH BIGGER than you, and you realize that you are small, that you are NOT in control. This is what solitude and prayer does for a believer by refocusing our hearts and minds on the greatness and majesty of God.

We are constantly being depleted by demands on our time and attention. But we can't give others what we don't have. Silence and solitude are God's gift of grace to us, an opportunity to be “filled” again with His presence, truth, and power. This Summer, let's live with margin so that we can live on mission!

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SE Ohio Mission District News

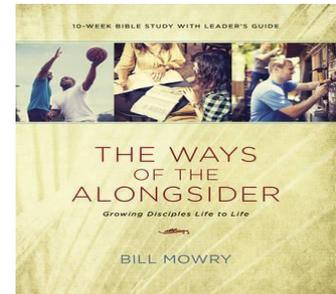


Pastor Michael Giese began his ministry at New Life Lutheran Church, Gallipolis on June 3, after being called by the congregation in April. Pastor Michael is a Minnesota native and Army veteran who received his MDiv from the Institute of Lutheran Theology. He is married to Misty and has two adult children, Amber in college, and Justin serving in the Air Force. The Giese's come to our mission district from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (NALC) in Rosenberg, Texas. A service of installation is tentatively planned for the morning of Sunday, July 8 at New Life with a meal to follow.

Pastor Steve Turnbull was called as Senior Pastor of UALC (Upper Arlington Lutheran Church) at a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 3. Steve comes to our mission district from Community of Grace Lutheran Church, a dually affiliated congregation in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Steve's wife, Amy is a musician and songwriter who previously served as worship leader at Community of Grace. The Turnbull's and children, Evangeline and William will move to Columbus next month, and Steve will begin his ministry during the week of July 16. Installation Services will be Sunday, August 26, 9:00 am at the Lytham Road campus and 10:30 am at Mill Run.



Next Clergy/Certified Lay Leaders Gathering will be Friday, June 29th from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 65 E. Columbus St, Thornville, OH 43076, followed by lunch. Thanks to Pr. Orrey McFarland for hosting and leading opening worship/devotions. As many of us were unable to make the May meeting, we will begin our discussion of the first chapter of the book, The Ways of the Alongsider: Growing Disciples Life to Life this month. The book is authored by Bill Mowry (2016 version), available on Amazon and at Christian booksellers



Pastor Don Allman retired on June 10 from St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City. A capacity crowd attended the joint celebration worship service and a lunch following. Pr. Allman served St. John's for 33 years as both Associate and Senior Pastor. He also served as the first Dean of the Southeast Ohio Mission District from May, 2015 to May, 2017.

Pastor Will Hartfelder will retire on June 24 from Grace Lutheran Church in Westerville, where he has served as Senior Pastor since 2003. Pr. Hartfelder led a successful building expansion during his tenure at Grace, with a Phase 2 family life center yet to come. Congratulations!





Congratulations to **Pastor Jay Jackson**, who recently accepted a call as Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Joppa, Maryland. Trinity is a large congregation with numerous staff as well as a school. Jay previously served as Interim Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church (Broad Street) in Columbus, and as a trained resource person for Congregational Renewal within our mission district. Please keep the Jackson's in prayer as they seek housing and begin their ministry in Joppa.

Thank you for communicating the work of the NALC in Ohio in your newsletters or bulletins by using the inserts that were sent to your church in May. Knowing our partners and what God is doing in and through our congregations is a great first step in closer partnership and in joining God where He is already at work among us. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we discern how best to further God's mission together in SE Ohio.

The SE Ohio Mission District Council will meet on Thursday, June 21, 6:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3220 Columbus St. in Grove City. We welcome to the council David Seamon of New Life, Gallipolis and Pastor David Hill of St. John, Columbus, who were elected at the Mission District convocation in May.

Karen Bentley of St. John's Lutheran in Grove City, was appointed on June 1 to represent Southeast Ohio as Lay Representative to the Mission Region Council. The council meets every other month to connect the 5 Ohio Mission Districts and to initiate joint mission and ministry efforts across the state.



Please remember the following congregations and people in your prayers:

- Pastor Don Allman, retiring from St. John's Grove City this month.
- Pastor Will Hartfelder, retiring from Grace, Westerville this month.
- Pastor Jay Jackson, who has accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran in Joppa, Maryland,.
- Pastor Scott Ness, currently in the call process.
- Vacation Bible Schools, youth camps, and retreats happening over the Summer.

Ohio Mission Region

The Ohio Mission Region Website is a great place to find resources and updated information about what is happening in Ohio in our 5 Mission Districts, which each have their own page on the site. Go to www.thenalcoho.org.

Pulpit Supply Guidelines and Available Preachers may be found on the Ohio Mission Region website at www.thenalcoho.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 such as teaching Sunday School or overnight hotel accommodations for special situations will be negotiated. 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.

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

Across the NALC



Thank you to congregations that gave special gifts to the NALC in response to Bishop Bradosky's recent appeal. Contributions will help fund a Director of Domestic Missions position, which has been filled by Pastor Bradley Hales of Culpepper, VA. Pastor Brad currently serves 1/4 time in that capacity. The goal is to move this position to 1/2 time so that our mission congregations have the guidance and resources that they need.



The NALC's 2018 Lutheran Week includes the annual Theological Conference, Mission Festival, and NALC Convocation. Online registration is live at 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*. She will be bringing Katherine Coolidge, the Siena Institute Called and Gifted Coordinator.

Lay Representation at Convocation: \$20,000 has been allocated by the NALC for scholarships to support lay persons who wish to attend Convocation as delegates, but need financial support. I have attached the application form to this email. Please let me know if someone in your congregation is applying, as I will need to recommend that your congregation receive a grant.

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/2GQgzth>

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/2sJXNAt>

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.