



Southeast Ohio Mission District

Dean's Newsletter

January 2019

Friends in Christ,

I pray that this Epiphany season finds you well as we proclaim and receive the promise of God with Us, and the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus. In past issues of this letter, I have shared some unique outreach ministries that are happening in the congregations of our Mission District. This month I would like to report on what UALC (Upper Arlington Lutheran Church) is doing in outreach to and with Internationals.

The nations are coming to Columbus, Ohio as over 6,000 international students attend our colleges and universities here each year. For that reason, UALC partners with International Friendships, Inc. IFI trains local congregation members to build relationships with international students through airport pickup, a welcome picnic, hosting students in homes before school begins or on breaks, and meeting regularly for English conversation. As a result of this ministry, a very well attended Friday night dinner and Bible Study has launched and continues to grow.

Because so many non-English speaking immigrants are moving to Central Ohio, UALC also offers a full family ESL program. A host of volunteers welcome families from 34 different countries on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the school year. Adults attend one of 5 levels of English classes, while babies are cared for in the nursery, school age students receive help with homework, and other kids enjoy recreation time in the gym or play board games.

Through these ministries, volunteers are often asked, "Why are you doing this for us?" which presents a perfect opportunity to share the hope that we have in Jesus. In November, UALC hosted the National Conference of the Crescent Project, where experts and former Muslims taught participants how to reach Muslim neighbors by first understanding their culture, beliefs, and practices.

A few weeks ago, the annual "Christmas for Internationals" event also brought around 200 people to the Mill Run campus to experience fellowship, a life-size Nativity, and a variety of international foods and music. Many heard the Christmas story that night for the first time. In these and other ways, UALC is committed to reaching the nations, beginning next door and around the corner. If you have questions or would like to know more about ministry with internationals, please contact Pastor Dave Mann, dmann@ualc.org. or 614-451-3736.

Yours In Christ,

Pr. Jeff Morlock
Dean – Southeast Ohio Mission District, NALC
Pastor – UALC, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church
2300 Lytham Rd., Columbus, OH 43220
614-451-2726 ext. 4652 (church)
614-404-1915 (cell)
jmorlock@ualc.org



SOUTHEAST OHIO MISSION DISTRICT

Next Pastors Gathering will be Friday, January 25 from 10:00 am – 12:15 am at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3200 Columbus St., Grove City, OH 43123. Thanks to Pastors Seth Jersild and Patti Morlock for hosting. We'll discuss Chapter 3 of "The Ways of the Alongsider", with discussion and fellowship continuing over lunch.

Next Mission District Council Meeting – Thursday, January 17, 6:30 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, Groveport, OH. Representatives to the council include Lay Members, Jan Bartel (St. John, Columbus), David Seamon (New Life, Gallipolis), and Bill Kulju (Grace, Westerville). Clergy Members are Pr. Orrey McFarland (Grace, Thornville), Pr. Matt Cox (Groveport, Zion), and Pr. Dave Hill (St. John, Columbus). Secretary - Pr. Scott Smith, Treasurer - Dan Allman, Dean – Pr. Jeff Morlock.

Youth and Family Ministry Leaders' Gathering – In an effort to connect youth and family ministry leaders (and student leaders) a gathering will be held on **Saturday, February 23rd at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3200 Columbus St., Grove City, OH.** We'll gather at 9:30 for pastries and coffee and conclude shortly after lunch (pizza provided). Gary Pecuch will be the facilitator for discussion and potentially some planning about what we can do together as a mission district in youth and family ministry. Please plan to make sure that your congregation is represented! Sponsored by the Southeast Ohio Mission District Executive Council.



- Grace, Westerville as engage the call process to find their next Senior Pastor.
- St. John's, Grove City as they search for their next Associate Pastor.

OHIO MISSION REGION

Ohio Mission Region Convocation – Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 4, 2019 at UALC – The Church at Mill Run, 3500 Mill Run Drive, Hilliard, OH 43026. Ohio Mission District Convocations will take place on this day as well. Keynote speaker will be Bishop Bradosky.

Next Ohio Mission Region Council Executive Meeting - Friday, January 18 at First Lutheran, Mansfield. Representatives from Southeast Ohio Mission District are Karen Bentley of St. John's Grove City, and Dean, Jeff Morlock.

PCAT Teams – Pastoral Care and Transition Teams are available to your congregation in times of pastoral vacancy, to help you through transition and call process, and also in situations of congregational conflict that would benefit from outside evaluation and mediation. If you need of a PCAT Team, please notify your mission district dean.

ACROSS THE NALC



Bishop Candidate Nomination Process: The Nominating Committee will be receiving names of candidates from NALC congregations up to 90 days prior to our August 2019 Convocation. Congregations should confirm a candidate's willingness to serve prior to submitting the candidate's name to the Nominating Committee. **Congregations must use the Bishop Candidate Nomination Form for making nominations and submit the form by May 3.** The Nominating Committee will contact each candidate to request biographical information, along with answers to specific questions. The Nominating Committee will provide information on all candidates, except those who may be nominated from the Convocation floor, to members of the NALC 90 days prior to the August Convocation. Encourage the congregations in your mission district to make a nomination. More information available at thenalc.org/election.

NALS Presidential Search: The Board of Regents of the North American Seminary and the Presidential Search Committee invite applications for the position of president of the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALs) in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The NALS presidency offers the exciting opportunity to lead an ambitious theological school well-positioned to achieve its next level of success through a continued commitment to academic rigor, student-centered success, the Great Commission and strong articulation of the Core Values of the North American Lutheran Church.

The NALS is the sole seminary of the North American Lutheran Church and is yoked with [Trinity School for Ministry](#). **Applications are entirely confidential, reviewed by the Presidential Search Committee only, and should be submitted no later than February 15, 2019.** The next president will assume office on or around July 1, 2019. Refer questions about the position to Dr. Roy Schwarz, Chair NALS Board of Regents, at 540-678-8748. Job description and application can be found at thenalc.org/nalspresident.

Schedule a FREE Stewardship Workshop: The NALC Living and Giving Stewardship team has now provided congregational and Mission District workshops, and the response has been positive and exciting. 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 Congregational workshop NOW and invite the Mission District! Email Pr. Dona Johnson, revdonajohnson@gmail.com, phone 513-259-4429.

2019 NALC Pastors' Conference, Feb. 19-21, Crowne Plaza Orlando Universal Hotel: Almost 200 participants attended in 2018. The conference will feature two speakers from the Roman Catholic tradition. Fr. Steve Pullis, Director of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit will speak about their "Unleash the Gospel" missionary discipleship initiative, giving a glimpse into their diocesan-wide effort. Fr. Charles Zlock, Pastor, St. Monica RC Church, Berwyn, PA will speak about their discipleship strategy from a parish perspective.

2019 Lutheran Week: August 6-9, Westin Hotel, Indianapolis: As we continue our two-year focus on the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the theme in 2019 will be "Walking by the Spirit, with the Fruit of the Spirit" Galatians 5:16-23.

Completed Calls or Congregations removed from Vacancy List:

Rockdale, TX, Peace: called Pr Gary Veit
St. Petersburg, FL, Christ: called Pr Mike Warfel
Atlantic, IA, Holy Trinity: disbanded

Mission Updates:

A Future of Hope: The Small and Rural Church – The new Bible study resource (and video series) from Pastor Brad Hales. To connect, please visit:

<https://missions.nalcnetwork.com/tag/smallandruralchurch/>

The Academy – Each month we will be hosting a free webinar based on expressed needs by NALC Leaders, for NALC Leaders. While normally meeting the first Tuesday of each month, due to the holiday schedule, please join us Tuesday, January 8th at 11 am EST for the next session. For additional details or to view past sessions, please visit: <https://goo.gl/KooTT6>

Free Resources – Pastor Brad Hales has written a new resource entitled: “Prayer – The Fuel for Mission.” To access the resource, please download a copy of the booklet from Lutheran Week 2018 and open to the appendix at: www.lutheranweek.com. (Alternatively, refer to the hard copy shared in Denver.) And as we endeavor to continue to be a people of prayer, this digital prayer calendar is a free resource available to all in the NALC: <https://goo.gl/8XhQZY>

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

Youth and Family Ministry Updates:

This school year the faithwebbing.com monthly webinars are focusing on Gary & Laurie Pecuch’s Trot through the Bible course for youth. Edited versions of the first few lessons have been posted on the site. Topics include:

- Classroom Philosophies and Teaching Styles
- Creation: It is Good!
- Adam & Eve: The Separation
- The Flood: Water Cleanses
- The Tower: God Came to Us

Then, remember to tune in to the Monthly Webinars on the second Tuesday of the month from 2 to 3 pm in January, February, March and April.

And the remaining Youth Ministry Online Course Schedule for this year is...

- January: Setting up a Safeguarding system in your congregation
- February: Models of Ministry
- March: Developing Spiritual Disciplines
- April: Basic Faith Skills Training

Gary & Laurie Pecuch
faithwebbing@gmail.com