

Holding Fast

BEING (RE)FORMED

Renewing Congregational Life Through the Word of God



NALC Mission Festival 2017

“So faith comes from hearing,
and hearing through the word of Christ.”

— *Romans 10:17* —

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From Now On

In the fifth chapter of Luke's Gospel, we read the familiar story of Jesus calling the first disciples. The heartbeat of the text is found in Luke 5:5: "*Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'*"

Just before this text, we see Jesus preaching and teaching, giving the spoken Word of God on one side of the lake. But on the other side of the lake, we see Peter, James and John trying to fish. On their own, apart from Jesus. Why don't they see any result? It isn't because they were lazy. They are hard workers. Is the problem with the lake? Is the probl In the fifth chapter of Luke's Gospel, we read the familiar story of Jesus calling the first disciples. The heartbeat of the text is found in Luke 5:5: "*Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'*"

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This text makes the most important point in discipleship, mission, and evangelism clear. As sacramental, confessional Lutherans, this becomes a very important text for us. Obviously, the missing piece was Jesus and His Word. It was the only thing added in this fishing exercise. Jesus didn't have them change their style. Or their net. Or the boat. Or the lake. Or the fishermen. They didn't change any of that. The only element that was missing or added was Jesus and His Word.

There are many hardworking churches and hardworking pastors. They are spending their time, talent, and energy: showing up early in the morning and not going home until late at night. They are hardworking fishermen on the other side of the lake from Jesus and his Word.

"We have worked, but have not caught much. We have tried everything, but we have not seen much fruit." These are common sentiments expressed by many leaders in the church. We have done everything that we know. We have changed the color of the building; we have put in new carpet. There are new musicians; we have changed the council leadership. We have tried this program and that program. We have tried everything we can think of, but there is no result! And rather than growing, we are not even plateauing; we are declining. We don't know what to do. We have worked hard all night."

Hard work without Jesus is not going to give us any result. We need to keep the Word at the center of our mission and the center of our ministry. When we lift up Jesus, he draws people to himself. The magnetic attraction in the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ is not the building, the pastor, the choir, or the musicians. It is Jesus Himself — Christ crucified. The Son of the Living God at the center of our lives.

The greatest mistake and crisis in the western church was when we started to push the Word of God away from the center. When we put ourselves at the center, the church started to decline. During our time together in Nashville, we will not teach new programs or mechanics, but we are here to remind them — and now you — “let’s bring Jesus and his Word to the center of our mission and ministry.” And let’s do that well. Then we will see the result.

Jesus brought the most stubborn fisherman to his knees with the Word of God. When Jesus is at the center, the driest humanity breaks into pieces. Human hearts melt. When the Gospel is at the center, sinners confess and receive salvation. Is Jesus at the center of the Church? Or on the other side of the lake where we are not? Are we working very hard on the other side of the lake, while not depending on Him? The concluding remark that Jesus made was not criticism, but three little words. There were no harsh words. He simply said: “**From now on.**”

From now on — it will not be like yesterday.

From now on — it will not be like 2016.

From now on — it is not going to be like my previous experience. Jesus is an expert at giving you a new season, a new experience, a new chapter.

It is the year of God’s favor — **from now on.**

Moments of Mission

Our Lutheran ancestors in Europe, Scandinavia and North America were passionate about spreading the Gospel, baptizing and making disciples.

The two largest Lutheran church bodies in the world (Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania) were blessed by the early efforts of missionaries.

Often, these missionaries and their efforts were initiated, funded and continued through



the work of various mission societies organized specifically to reach the world, in obedience to Jesus' own commission for his followers to "make disciples of all nations." Sadly, in the last generation or two, this mission fervor has cooled as many Christians, congregations and church bodies have become more inwardly focused, struggling to simply maintain the Church as an institution while in the midst of decline, loss of members and income.

The North American Lutheran Church, from its inception, has been intentionally Christ Centered and Mission Driven! In every aspect of our life together, we are focused on Christ and his mission. We have a Life-to-Life Discipleship initiative in obedience to the Great Commission. We are planting new congregations and welcoming Spanish-speaking, Chinese, Oromo, Amharic and other multi-national communities. We support global workers serving in various locations around the world, and we are encouraging every local congregation to partner with at least one international missionary effort.

We also have what may be considered the proverbial best-kept secret in the NALC — the Great Commission Society! The GCS is a voluntary group of individuals and congregations who commit to monthly giving to support local mission congregations, global workers around the world, and anything and everything having to do with mission in the NALC.

To get the word out about the GCS, "Moments of Mission" original artwork has been created and will be available for the first time this week at the 2017 Lutheran Week in Nashville, Tenn. In keeping with the theme of supporting missions in a concrete and practical way, accomplished

artist Pastor Phil Gagnon of St. Albert Lutheran Church in St. Albert, Alberta, has prepared 12 “Moments of Mission” watercolor paintings.



These paintings give glimpses of life and mission around the world, from Mexico to Tanzania and Ethiopia, intending to inspire hearts for mission and the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

The original art pieces, signed by the artist, are framed and available for purchase during Lutheran Week (Aug. 7-11). The artwork will also be incorporated into calendars and notecards which are available for sale. All participants and visitors to Lutheran Week are encouraged to find the “Moments of Mission” display and consider taking one (or more) of these beautiful, unique pieces of artwork back for home or church!

Proceeds will go to the Great Commission Society fund to support the NALC’s annual grant program which provides up to three years of emergency or transitional aid for missions and global workers, as well as start-up funds for new mission starts in North America.

By having this inspiring artwork available and visible in our homes and churches, it is hoped that mission will be on our hearts and minds day by day! It is also hoped that they will serve as an ongoing invitation for individuals and congregations to join the Great Commission Society by making a monthly commitment to participate in supporting and encouraging missions around the world.

**Together,
let’s be
Mission Driven!**

Schedule

Wednesday

- 1:30 pm Service of the Word – Preaching: President Yonas Yigezu, EECMY
- 2:30 pm Mission Festival Session I
Introduction
Keynote Address 1 – *Life-to-Life Discipleship*, Bishop John Bradosky, NALC
Panel Q & A with Table Talk
Moderator: The Rev. Dr. David Wendel
Panelists: Bishop John Bradosky
Bishop Dr. Fredrick Onael Shoo
The Rev. Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa
The Rev. Rolf Kjøde
The Rev. Martin Fromm
- 5:00 pm Conclusion of Session 1 with Instructions for Mission District Meeting
- 5:30 pm Dinner (included in registration fee)
- 7:30 pm Mission District Meetings
– Bible Study connected with Bishop Bradosky’s Presentation

*Note that Global Forum meets separately and begins at 6:30 pm

Thursday

- 8:00 am Morning Prayer
- 8:30 am Mission Festival Session II
Introduction
Keynote Address 2 – *The Shape of Congregational Life in Tanzania Today: Blessings and Challenges*,
The Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Parsalaw, ELCT
Table Talk
- 10:10 am Breakouts
- 11:15 am Mission Festival Session III
KeyNote Address 3 – The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, NALC
Closing Prayer
- Noon Mission Festival Concludes

NALC Core Values

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission-Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servant-hood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.



NALC Mission Team Leaders



Pastor Brad Hales is chair of the Renewal Team, the pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church, Culpeper, Virginia, and the Dean of the Virginia Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church. Through the power of Jesus, Pastor Hales has helped to renew several older congregations in discipleship, outreach and mission. In 2009, his present congregation was given the “Best Practices Award in Senior Adult Ministry” by the National Council on Aging. Hales has also authored the Bible study, A Covenant of Aging, published by Sola Publishing. For more information, please contact him at: pastorhales@hotmail.com.



Pastor Rafe Allison serves as chair of the Great Commission Society and the pastor of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Concord, NC. A native North Carolinian, Rafe was called to the ordained ministry from a career in engineering and received his Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC. He has served congregations in SC, ND, WV, and NC and has previously served the NALC as both a member and chair of the Candidacy Committee. Teresa, his wife of 34 years, works as a database analyst for a utility firm. Their son, Eaven, is a student pilot pursuing his bachelor’s degree at UNC-Charlotte as a cadet with AFROTC Detachment 592. For more information, please contact Pastor Allison at: revrafea@gmail.com.



Pastor Eric Waters serves as the chair of the International Mission Team. Pastor Eric shares that it is his wife who prayed him into the Kingdom, and he now serves as senior pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Boerne, TX. He is a graduate of Dartmouth, has a Master of Divinity from Yale, and received a Doctorate of Ministry from Luther Seminary in Biblical preaching. Originally from New York, he and his amazing wife, Michelle, and six children are now blessed to call Boerne, TX, home. For more information, please contact him at: pastorwaters@stjohnlutheran.com.



Trina M. Petersen serves as the chair of the New Starts team. Pastor Trina is founding pastor of A New Thing Christian Church, Lithonia, GA, a ministry entrusted to her by God, focused on the deliverance, healing and wholeness of His people. Pastor Trina was baptized as an infant, confirmed as a teenager and served as an adult in the Lutheran Church prior to becoming an ordained pastor in the NALC. Being Kingdom minded, Pastor Petersen serves in the position of pastor, operates with an apostolic anointing, and speaks in a prophetic voice as she helps the people of God heal from their pasts, live in the now, and walk in the power and authority given to them by God! For more information, please contact her at: beholdanewthing@gmail.com.

NALC Global Workers



Pastor Jeff and Miriam (Mim) Nellerhoe
China Service Ventures
Henan, China
jeff@chinaserviceventures.org
mim@chinaserviceventures.org
Jeff's Blog: <https://bamboopilgrim.com>



Judy Perry
World Mission Prayer League
Evergreen Family Friendship Service
Shanxi, China



Pastor Charles & Anita Jackson
World Mission Prayer League
Joint Christian Services (JCS) International
Mongolia
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Pastors Neeraj and Nijhar Minz-Ekka
World Mission Prayer League
North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church
Navin Doman Theological College
Jharkhand, India
jnekk@gmail.com
Blog: <http://www.wmpl.org/blogs/nnekka>



Pastor Didi & Serafina Panzo
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Stephen Katterhenrich
Wife, Rachel, and children, Hope and Scott
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Keynote Presenters



Bishop John Bradosky has over 30 years of pastoral experience with diverse experience in organization and administration. He has served in urban, suburban, and multicultural settings. Previously he has served as the NALC's General Secretary, and senior pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dayton, Ohio. He has also served St. John Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio; Trinity Lutheran Church in Canton, Ohio; and Grace Lutheran Church in Huntington Beach, Calif. Bishop Bradosky is a graduate of Hamma School of Theology at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pa.



The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop for Mission for the North American Lutheran Church. He is originally from Ethiopia and now lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife and three children. In addition to academic study and ordained ministry, Dr. Buba participates in multiple international ministries through speaking, leading revivals, leadership development conventions, and evangelical mission events.



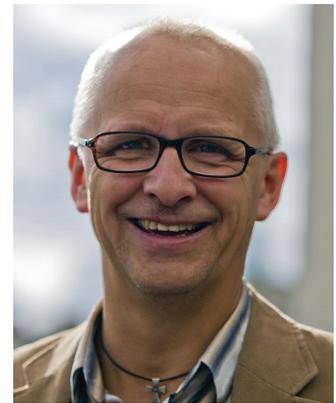
The Rev. Yonas Yigezu, was elected at the EECMY 20th General Assembly, held 22-28 January 2017, at the Mekane Yesus Seminary in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. "God is calling me into a challenge but for enormous blessings ahead. I am a team builder and prayer warrior. I see my success in this," Yigezu said following his election to a four-year term. President Yigezu was ordained in 2006 and served as the EECMY director for Mission and Theology. He holds master's degrees in church management and development policy management from Westhill College and Manchester University, England, and in divinity from the Union Theological Seminary, United States. He is currently pursuing his doctoral studies at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, United States. Yigezu and his wife, Ayantu Dufera, have four children.



Martin Fromm is a distinguished historian and theologian, ordained in Neuendettelsau in 2003. Since 2007, he has been the leader of the Evangelical Lutheran parish of Rüdénhausen, comprising the municipalities of Rüdénhausen and Wiesentheid, Germany. This Lutheran church community is characterized by a diaspora situation. The Gnadenkirche “St. Matthew” in Wiesentheid was built in 1952. Since then, it has been remodeled numerous times and today it is a welcoming, bright and friendly facility. The congregation is young, highly dynamic and, despite many changes and transitions over the years, flourishing and strongly ecumenical. The work in these two different, very charming church communities

characterizes Pastor Fromm’s ministry. At the dean’s office, he serves as a world ombudsperson, as well as functioning as the ecumenical commissioner. He is committed to the renewal of the church on the basis of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. The Rev. Fromm is happily married and has three young children.

Rolf Kjøde is the Director of Continuing Education and External Courses at NLA University College in Norway. He previously served as the General Secretary for ten years of Normisjon, one of Norway’s leading mission organizations. Rolf has also been director and, for several years, chairman of NORME, which is the merged Norwegian branch of The Lausanne Movement and the national Evangelical Alliance. He has been principal and teacher at two Bible schools and was for some years responsible for international relations in the Norwegian branch of IFES. Kjøde holds a Master of Theology, has written many articles in Scandinavian theological and missiological journals, and has written an evangelism textbook for Bible schools.



He is a Network Leader for the Mission Leaders Network and one of the gifted theologians participating in the Confessional Global Forum.



The Rev. Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa has served as the general secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) since 2009. A native of Ethiopia, Ofgaa graduated with theological degrees from Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1981 and earned a Master of Sacred Theology from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH, in 1992. Ofgaa completed his doctoral studies in Missiology from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, in 2009. Ofgaa previously served in the Central Ethiopian Synod as president from 1983 to 2000, as executive secretary from 1982 to 1983, and as principal and teacher of the Central Ethiopian Synod’s Christian Education Center, a center for ministerial training, from 1981 to 1982.

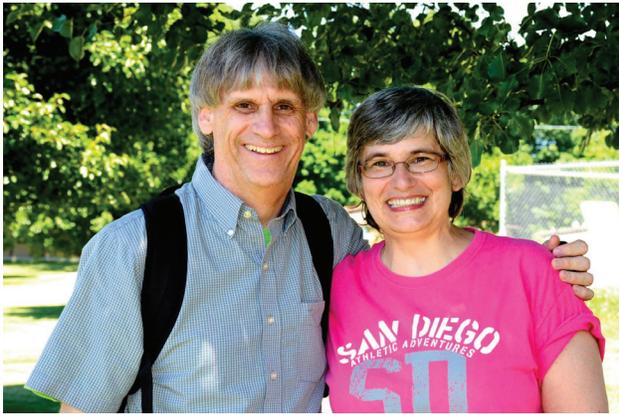
Ofgaa is married to Gennet Mulugeta, and they are blessed to have a son, Tsega Ofgaa.

Breakout Sessions

Equipping the Saints

Leader: Gary and Laurie Pecuch • Location: Mission District Breakout

For Christians, our purpose comes from the Lord God Almighty: “You should love the Lord Your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deut 6:5). God has gifted the body of Christ with unique gifts as we live into this each and every day. Regardless of what our vocation is, what would it look like if we intentionally lived into the purpose based in Luke 2:52 of “growing physically, growing spiritually, earning the respect of others, and pleasing God.” Our personal mission is, “To equip God’s people with the necessary faith skills to live out their personal calling in life.” Join us for this hands-on breakout to focus on how you can help equip others and allow them to use their gifts for the sake of the Gospel!



Gary and Laurie Pecuch began a congregational youth and family consultation ministry named faithwebbing.com that originated at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City, Ohio. Approximately two years ago, the NALC entered into an agreement with faithwebbing.com to provide consultation for NALC congregations. Gary and Laurie created faithwebbing.com as a result of the contacts they received asking for advice on youth ministry. Their vision is to wrap our children and youth in

a web of faith so loving and so caring that they will know Jesus and always want to be a part of a local congregation.

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. —Ephesians 4:11-13

Senior Ministry

Leader: Pastor Brad Hales • Location: Cumberland

Survey after survey has begun to stir up fear in the hearts of churches across the United States. The amount of “gray hair” that can be found in our pews has become a source of worry for many. As the average age of members increases across denominations, “senior” becomes a byword. Leadership teams, pastors, and church councils begin to ask with increasing fervor: “How do we get more young people in our doors?” I think we are asking the wrong question. Please don’t misunderstand. The youth in our church are incredibly important, and it is imperative to share the Gospel with them. However, what if we saw this increasing “age” in our congregations as an opportunity for discipleship instead of as a negative factor?



Pastor Brad Hales is chair of the Renewal Team, the pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church, Culpeper, VA, and the Dean of the Virginia Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church. Through the power of Jesus, Pastor Hales has helped to renew several older congregations in discipleship, outreach and mission. In 2009, his present congregation was given the “Best Practices Award in Senior Adult Ministry” by the National Council on Aging. Hales has also authored the Bible study, “A Covenant of Aging,” published by Sola Publishing. For more information, please contact him at pastorhales@hotmail.com.

Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim; he went on with the king to the Jordan, to escort him over the Jordan. Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. He had provided the king with food while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. The king said to Barzillai, “Come over with me, and I will provide for you in Jerusalem at my side.” But Barzillai said to the king, “How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? Today I am eighty years old; can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king recompense me with such a reward? Please let your servant return, so that I may die in my own town, near the graves of my father and my mother. But here is your servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do for him whatever seems good to you.” The king answered, “Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do for him whatever seems good to you; and all that you desire of me I will do for you.” Then all the people crossed over the Jordan, and the king crossed over; the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own home.

—2 Samuel 19:31-40

Lessons on Mission and Evangelism from Tanzania Today

Leader: Dr. Angela Olotu and the Rev. Dr. Faustin Mahali • Location: General Hood

The vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) is: “To make people know Jesus Christ and have life in its fullness by bringing to them the Good News through words and deeds based on the Word of God as it is in the Bible and the Lutheran teachings guided by the ELCT Constitution.” The Church focuses on propagating the “holistic” Gospel by serving people through spiritual, social, economic and environmental programs/interventions in order to have a God-loving community, thereby fulfilling God’s mission in Tanzania. In serving human beings in a holistic way, the ELCT carries out mission work within and outside the country using all types of means and media. Presenting at various times throughout the week in Nashville, join this breakout for a more in-depth and personal conversation with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Rev. Dr. Angela Olotu serves as Dean of the Theology Faculty and lecturer of Pastoral Theology at Tumaini University Makumira (TUMA). She is a pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, holding a Doctorate of Theology with a focus on “Preaching in Times of HIV/AIDS” from Hamburg University in Germany. Her Masters in Theology focused on “Ministry to Imprisoned Murderers” and Bachelor of Divinity focused on “Women Pastors in Ministry,” both courses of study completed at TUMA. Dr. Olotu has served as a parish pastor, lecturer at Mwika Bible

School, and continues in her role as Lecturer at TUMA, together with her responsibilities as Dean. “The church belongs to God himself; it’s the church of Christ. And all of us are members of that one body. That means that we can learn from one another,” says Dr. Olotu. “In this case, we will strengthen our way of worshiping God and evangelism by working together.”



The Rev. Dr. Faustin Mahali serves as the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration at Tumaini University in Makumira (TUMA), Tanzania. He received his Doctorate in Theology at Augustana Hochschule, Neuendettelsau, Germany, in New Testament Theology (with minors in Church History and Systematic Theology). He received his Bachelors in Theology at TUMA. Dr. Mahali holds completed additional coursework in Management and Leadership, as well as German and Latin studies. He served previously as a parish pastor and head of the Project and Development Department in the South Western Diocese. Additionally,

Dr. Mahali has served as the Diocesan Coordinator of Local Community Capacity Building & HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, as well as being a Senior Lecturer, Chaplain, and Dean for the Faculty of Theology at TUMA.

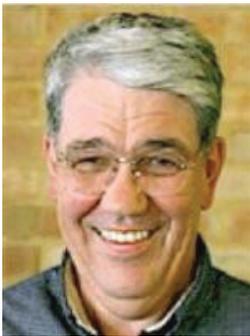
I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. —Romans 12:1-2

The Word of God in Everyday Life

Leader: Pastor Jim Nestingen • Location: Belmont

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’ ...So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.” —**Romans 10:14-15,17**

“That’s how the old sinner in us dies. God kills the old you each day with kindness. The God of grace keeps showering you with promises and gifts until, finally, the old you just plain dies of it. It happens as the Spirit working through the Word enables you to say, ‘I don’t have to impress God anymore or prove that I can take care of myself. I can count on God to keep the word. I repent—you are the Lord. Do what you think is best.’” Join Dr. Nestingen as he focuses on Congregational Renewal Through the Word of God by actually being in the Word of God each day.



Jim Nestingen was first affiliated with Luther Seminary as an instructor from 1976-78. After serving two years as assistant to the pastor of St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in Toronto, Canada, he returned to Luther Seminary as assistant professor of church history in 1980. He was named professor of church history in 1992 and professor emeritus of church history in 2006.

A graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, in 1967, Nestingen earned the master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary in 1971 and the master of theology degree in 1978. He received his doctorate in theology from St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto, in 1984. Following his ordination in 1971, he served as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Coquille, OR, for three years before becoming curriculum editor at Augsburg Publishing House from 1974-1976. Nestingen has written and spoken prolifically on Luther’s catechisms and confessional Lutheran theology. In March 2001, he was one of the featured speakers at The Book of Concord Lectures held at Luther Seminary, which celebrated the latest translation of *The Book of Concord* and discussed its relevance for the 21st Century. Nestingen’s books include: *Martin Luther: His Life and His Teachings* (2004, 1982); *Manger in the Mountains* (2000); *The Faith We Hold* (1983); *Roots of Our Faith* (1978); and *Free to Be* (with Gerhard Forde, 1975).

But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” —**Matthew 4:4**

Play and Pray

Leader: Pastor Jeff and Miriam (Mim) Nellerhoe • Location: Cheekwood

Let Sports Ministry revolutionize your outreach, your joy and your church's family fitness. Jeff and Mim Nellerhoe have been using the Play and Pray tool all over the world for 35 years, from China, Russia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Mexico, Australia, the USA, and Japan, to the ends of the earth. They have seen play build strong bridges for Jesus to walk across to the hearts of orphans, prison boys, street children, gang kids, rural poor peasants, rich entitled kids, war orphans, hidden special needs angels, and more. Do you want to learn how to Play and Pray with your family, your congregation, your city, your country, the WORLD? We will help you experience Play and Pray and give you the tools to bring it to your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria... and the farthest parts of the earth. Come dressed in "play" clothes and tennis shoes so you can play floor hockey and other fun sports. Be ready to break out of your box to learn to share the Gospel in two or three different ways in a few minutes. Be ready to Play Hard and Pray Hard!



Jeff and Mim Nellerhoe serve in rural poor China amongst the "Stay Behind" children, left by their parents in Xinyang, Henan, China, with China Service Ventures. They also serve with the CSV "Bo Ai" summer youth camps in Henan, China, where they work primarily to mentor CSV's Chinese leaders and equip them for lives of service.

Pastor Jeff is called in the NALC. He graduated with a B.A., summa cum laude, from Texas Lutheran College (Seguin, TX), and a M.Div., with honors, from Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN). He completed his Ph.D. in Integrated Marketing Communication at the University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT). His recreational pursuits include motorcycles, horses, skiing, archery, golf, and biking. Aside from sports, he loves to play guitar and sing, watch movies, and read good fiction novels.

Mim Nellerhoe graduated with a B.A., summa cum laude, from Texas Lutheran College, and a M.A. in Education from Augustana Lutheran College (Sioux Falls, SD). Most recently she coached and taught at Another Way School in Park City, Utah. Mim loves all sports and animals. She grew up in Salt Lake City.

Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters.

—Colossians 3:23

Mission District Meetings

7:30 - 9:00 Pm

Directions: Mission District meetings are key to the success of our time together, where the rubber meets the road. Specific breakout room information will be available at the registration area and also listed in the main gathering area. As you find where your Mission District is meeting, your Mission District Dean will act as a facilitator. Time will begin with this Bible study written by Bishop Bradosky as it connects to his keynote presentation (approximately one hour); the additional time provided will be used for administrative mission district business (which varies from mission district to mission district).

Practical Information: Mission District Dean/Facilitator may choose to read aloud each of Bishop Bradosky's reflections throughout the Bible Study. Alternatively, participants may take turns reading those reflection pieces aloud. Discussions questions are in bold italics type for ease of access.

Supplies Needed: Bible (printed or digital copy), mission festival booklet (printed or digital copy), writing utensil for taking notes (or digital equivalent).

1. Opening Prayer
2. Read Mark 11:12-17 – *And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, 'Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.' Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.*
3. Divide up into dyads (2 people) or triads (3 people) and process/reflect on the following questions:
 - A. Jesus cursed a fig tree just before He cleansed the temple and drove out all those who bought and sold there. The similarity of these acts is striking, and I believe they are connected in symbol and message. ***Have you ever dealt with these texts as though they were integrated as one message? Why or why not?***

B. Jesus notices a fig tree with many leaves. Jesus approaches it and examines it closely to see if it is producing any fruit. But He finds nothing but leaves. Perhaps Mark is making excuses for the fig tree. He writes, that it was not the season for figs, suggesting that Jesus may have had illegitimate expectations for the fig tree. Some who read this text believe that Jesus is being unfair in his demands. But a far more important question is who created the fig tree? Who has the right to set the expectations for the fig tree? Who has created in the fig tree the capacity for producing fruit? Then Jesus curses the fig tree. Let no one eat fruit from you ever again. The fig tree would live but lack any real purpose. It would live but in a way that was contrary to God's design and God's will. It would remain but be unproductive and unfulfilled providing nothing for anyone. ***Which is worse to simply die or to live not being able to be productive and to live contrary to God's intended purpose for your life? Why?***

C. Immediately Mark takes us to the temple and now Jesus is throwing out those who were using the temple as a business, buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers who were making a living off of overcharging the people who came to worship God offering sacrifices and giving offerings. ***What point do you think Mark is trying to make? Do you see any connection yet? Is there any way that the religious leaders at the temple were like the fig tree?***

4. Return to the larger group and share which key reflection most stood out to you in your dyad/triad.

5. Mission District Dean/Facilitator helps the group reflect on the following questions/thoughts:

A. These two pieces are part of the same message. The temple was no longer a symbol of the covenant relationship between God and His people. It was no longer about faith in God but a religious system that sought to maintain its position of power and influence controlling and manipulating people for the sake of perpetuating its own existence. The religious leaders were functioning in a cultural climate of Roman influence that was hostile and the leaders were primarily interested in their own survival, influence and financial success at the expense of the people. They were no longer good shepherds caring for the spiritual well being of God's people.

They were just like the fig tree, lots of leaves and no fruit. There were many in Jesus' day who made excuses for the religious establishment and said it just was not the right season for bearing fruit. In difficult times, let's just try to get along and remain passive so we avoid conflict with the culture and preserve whatever we have. They thought Jesus was being unfair in His criticism and expectations. In fact, they were in favor of getting rid of Jesus to preserve their own religious institution. They were no longer interested in the mission God had given them. Instead, they created a new mission, survival, preservation of a religious institution, struggling to maintain their control. They were not interested in producing fruit but making more leaves and pretending to be faithful.

The question is whose Temple is it? Who has the right to set the mission for the Church? Who has the right to hold the Church accountable? What happens if the Church forsakes its mission and its Lord and Savior?

Does any of this seem familiar? Have you experienced anything like this? Have you ever considered yourself part of the problem more than the solution?

B. You do not have to look far to find religious institutions that are more concerned about their own survival than the mission Jesus gave to His Church. You don't have to look far to find religious leaders who criticize Jesus to defend their own, values, morality and behaviors. You don't have to look far to find those who are no longer spiritual shepherds but those looking for affirmation from the culture, who no longer proclaim the Gospel of Jesus but their own wisdom and agendas, more concerned with being politically correct than leading people to Jesus.

Jesus was cursing all those things that rob the Church of the true power of God, its identity and its true mission. This is the result of what I call the over-institutionalization of the Church.

How would you define the over-institutionalization of the Church today?

F. Return briefly to your original dyads and triads for 3 minutes — each group should receive a different passage of Scripture and come up with bullet points/key words for each. Return to the large group and simply list the key words/points off for each Scripture verse:

- Colossians 1:18

- Colossians 1:24

- Romans 12:4-5

- Ephesians 4:11-16

- Matthew 18:20

- 1 John 4:1

- Mark 4:16-17

G. As we read Colossians 1:18, 24, we emphasize the Biblical understanding of the Church. The word “Church” itself is “ekklesia” which means an assembly. And we see that “(Christ) is the head of the body, the church” Colossians 1:18 and He suffered “for the sake of his body, which is the church” (Col 1:24) Thus we see that the Biblical definition of “church” is a corporate body and not an institution. In addition the body of Christ is supposed to be a living healthy body and not a sick or dead body. The difference between these is that a sick or dead body has non-functioning members. I was a chaplain with hospice and was with numerous people as they died. It often happens one part or member of the body at a time. The dysfunction starts with the extremities and moves toward the center until the body can no longer function. Now I don’t believe this can happen to the whole body of Christ, but you would have to be living in the absolute denial of reality to assume that it does not happen to individual congregation and even denominational bodies. But that is not the kind of assembly the Bible speaks of when referring to the Church.

Notice the Biblical description of the church (Romans 12:4,5). Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Ephesians 4:11-16 – It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to equip God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

According to Matthew 18:20, this happens whenever two or three come together in the name of Jesus, He promises to be there with them.

Thus, every individual member should not simply be present, but be functioning. And there should be growth in maturity, mutual accountability and responsive, obedient behavior, living out our faith, and sharing the Gospel in the context of every relationship. That is the objective. Unfortunately, institutionalism moves the attention away from the individual function to simply being passive observers of what other institutional leaders and structures are accomplishing.

How can we counteract inactivity or passivity in the local congregation? How can we promote a healthy understanding of the nature of the Body of Christ as a living organism?

H. Second, focus on the Biblical mission Jesus gave to His Church in the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Now, therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you and I am with you always, even to the close of the age.”

We must lead people to faith in Jesus Christ and disciple them. Teach them the faith. Use the Bible as the primary tool to help them know who Jesus is and the nature of His Kingdom. Help them learn, grow and mature in the faith and be truly transformed, until they are fully equipped to use their gifts from the Holy Spirit to begin to disciple others.

This is the only mission of the Church. Everything else we do is to help us accomplish this mission. We love others so we can share the love of Christ, the love we have first received. We love so we can proclaim Jesus Christ and His life-saving love that is the only source of salvation. We must be disciples and commit ourselves exclusively to making disciples!

How do you maintain the focus on the central mission of the Church and still do everything else that has become the “work of the church” for previous decades?

I. Third, focus on the Bible, for teaching, preaching, for guidance in the way of living faithfully. Encourage believers to read and study the Word of God together, to accept the Bible as the norm for all matters of their life and faith. Help the to be so equipped with the Word that they can do what John encourages all Christians to do to test the spirits. 1 John 4:1 – “Beloved, don’t believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” The Lord commands every disciple of Jesus to compare all teachings to the truth of Scripture. Notice in Acts 17: Paul commended the Bereans who exercised skepticism towards his own teachings. “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Jesus encourages His disciples to grow deep in the soil of Christ, to be rooted in Christ. Institutionalism keeps their roots in the shallow soil of the rocky ground of the institution instead of Christ. Mark 4:16-17 “those who are sown on the rocky places, are those who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with joy. They have no root in themselves, but are short-lived.” Institutionalism tends towards producing unrooted Christians — those who have a faith which is only on the surface, in the institution. Being deeply rooted in Christ is the goal of discipleship.

How do you ensure the spiritual growth and commitment to read and study the scripture daily? Which of the following list is most challenging for 1. You; 2. Your Congregation and why?

Discipleship is:

- Focused on function not form
- Spirit rather than the letter
- Biblical truth not human wisdom
- Inward nature not outward appearance
- Grace and mission not law and regulations

J. Paul warns Timothy that the day will come when people will only hear what they want to hear and will gather leaders who will only tell them what their itching ears want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3). The authority of Christ is always replaced by leaders of institutions seeking their own political power and acceptance.

Is there anything positive or necessary regarding the institutional nature of the church?

I am not attempting to undermine everything that I just said but rather to remind you that Discipleship can only function in a community where there is mutual accountability and responsibility. There must be oversight that requires organization and some structure. There must be expectations. To obey all that Jesus commands requires that we are accountable to Christ and to one another. Jesus was accountable to the Father. The disciples were accountable to Jesus and so we must be accountable to one another and especially those who have spiritually authority over us in the name of Christ Jesus. Discipleship is not in individualized pursuit of Jesus but one that occurs in the context of Christian Community just as Jesus first followers were knit together in a community.

In the name of Jesus, disciples must long for such accountability. It is the only true way to demonstrate love, to have expectations and to hold one another accountable in following Christ. Some institutionalization is not the same as the over-institutionalization of the Church.

Love and structure go together. Love needs structure. Every family knows the importance of structure and expectation if true love is to be experienced. That is the nature of the institution of the family. As you reflect on the continuum below, place an “x” next to where you and your congregation fall on the continuum.

Authentic Community	Institutional Structure
Romanticist	Classicists
Heart	Head
Creativity	Order
Love	Truth and Authority

The Church: Institutionalism vs. Kingdom of God

- “Churches” or congregations are not purely “institutional” or “kingdom,” but tend toward one or the other.
- Some things mentioned under “institutional” may be used effectively in the “kingdom” if they are subservient to “kingdom” values and dynamics.

	Institutionalism	Kingdom of God
Definition of “Church”	Organization, Institution, Building, Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Called Out Ones” (literal Biblical Greek word for church) • Ordinary People Called by Jesus, Out to Transform the World • Body of Christ, Body of Disciples, Family of God
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I go to church.” • Church is a “what.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I am the church 24/7.” • “We are the church 24/7.” • Church is a “who.”
Goal	Maintain and Grow Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People...disciples bringing Jesus’ rule, reign, redemption and resurrection power to people, problems and places • Making and mobilizing disciples of Jesus through teaching and baptizing
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization’s Activities and Programs • Meeting Members’ Needs • Being Nice 	Prayer (talking/listening), Holy Spirit, Call, God’s Word, Faith, Salvation, Renewal, Mission, Discipleship, Healing, Hope, Law and Gospel, God’s Love, Mutual Kingdom Accountability
Primary Focus	“In” (focus on what happens “in”side of walls)	“In” for the sake of “Out”
Measure of Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance, Buildings, Cash “Butts, Buildings, Bucks” • Growth of Organization • Analyzing and projecting organization’s numbers (on paper and in meetings) 	Where is the rule and reign of Jesus increasing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit of Spirit and Character of Jesus • Salvation of Souls (not people switching churches) • Individuals: Is the rule and reign of Jesus greater in one’s life than last year?

	Institutionalism	Kingdom of God
Method and Definition of “Out”reach, Mission and Evangelism	<p>Do something to “attract” more people “in”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering the right services and activities • Employing people who can perform and produce more people • Right location and type of building • Marketing, Websites, Social Media, Demographics • Waiting for people to arrive “in” and welcome • Getting people involved “in” <p>Conclusion: Get more members</p>	<p>Mission (Latin: Sent “Out”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness and Sharing Gospel (repentance and forgiveness of sins) with those who don’t trust in Jesus • Healing Our Broken World and Expectation of the Miraculous from God • “I am a missionary 24/7.” What is my mission field? • Sending and Supporting Foreign Missionaries • Church Planting/Transplanting and City Transformation • Bringing “Good News” where there is “Bad News” • Making what is “Wrong”... “Right”
Jesus	<p>Sometimes: allergy to “J” word (Jesus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus: “Only name by which we can be saved.” • Still ALIVE and ACTIVE because of Resurrection
Source of Power and Guidance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books, programs or methodologies, especially the latest or trendy • Copycat Church • Human excitement, enthusiasm and energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God’s Word: Written (Bible), Spoken, Revealed and in the Flesh • Call and Power of Holy Spirit • Spiritual Vision: God Revealing Creative Wisdom and the Future • Earnest Prayer
Discipleship	<p>Offering education and spiritual growth options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School • At “church” • Including children and youth options 	<p>DISCIPLE: Being transformed and trained as apprentice of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Repentance and Conversion • In the Word (Scriptures) • Spiritually Formed through Prayer and Disciplines • Called by Jesus, 24/7 • Inviting the Holy Spirit... continually • Producing and Reproducing: More Disciples and Fruit • Living relationship with Jesus and His followers • Endlessly and to the End of Time: Know, Follow, Serve

	Institutionalism	Kingdom of God
Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name on a list to be tallied • Consumer of the Church's activities and services • Pew-sitters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person with Important "Part" in Jesus' Kingdom Purposes and Empowered by Holy Spirit to be that Part and Function, 24/7 (1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12)
In Charge?	People	Living "Lord" God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
"Preacher"	Ordained Pastor or Priest	ALL Followers of Jesus: Preacher is a Proclaimer of the Gospel
Missionaries, Priests, and Ministers	Those who receive wages or financial support for this role	<p>ALL Followers of Jesus are Missionaries, Priests and Ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missionaries (Latin: "Sent"): Those "Sent" by Jesus, 24/7 • Priests 24/7: (from Latin: "Bridge-builder"), 1 Peter 2:5 • Ministers (from Latin: Servants): Servants of Jesus, 24/7
Congregation's Role: The Gathered Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Worship Services • Social Gatherings • Philanthropy: Community Service • Being Nice to Others • Offering activities and services to members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word and Sacrament • Worship: Bowing down to the living God • Community: Healing, Encouragement and Accountability • Saving, Transforming, Training and Mobilizing Ordinary People for Kingdom Purposes
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate like business or community organization • Methodologies: trendy programs; gimmicks; business plan; meetings; committees; finding the "right" idea, structure, programs, location and kind of building; employing the "right" people; assigning tasks; schedules; timelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer, Call of Jesus, and Recognizing His Voice, 24/7 • Waiting upon the Lord • Spiritual Vision Revealed by God: Seeing with God's Eyesight • Calling and Mobilizing Ordinary People to be Body of Christ • Inviting, Equipping, and Empowering of Holy Spirit Wise Stewards • ALL: Operating According to God's Word

	Institutionalism	Kingdom of God
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Like it was done in the past” • Filling slots and getting people involved • Committees (or equivalent) • Whatever is trendy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form follows Kingdom Function in Body of Christ • Making Unique “Members” Effective for Kingdom, 24/7 • Conclusion: Every Gathering of Believers is Unique • Unique Structure that facilitates unique people, time, and place
Leadership	<p>Most Capable: Those with worldly success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oftentimes business people • Top-Down • Control 	<p>Facilitating: Making Others Successful (Bottom-up)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Capable: Mature in Christ (any career) • Empowered by Holy Spirit • “According to Scriptures”: God’s Word, ways and voice • Leadership, Spiritual Gifts • Reproducing Oneself
Pastor’s Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead and run a successful organization • Preach and lead weekly services • Meet members’ needs • Omni-competency • Employee of congregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tending the Flock: Word and Sacrament Ministry • Lead using one’s unique spiritual gifts, ensuring the ongoing mission of Jesus happens within a gathering of believers • One part of the Body, called and set apart for a designated role • Mobilizing the Body of Christ to transform the world • Called by congregation in covenant relationship
Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using time, talent, treasure for the sake of a church organization • Filling slots for “Church” tasks • Getting funds to meet the church budget needs • Tithing: A practice designed to get people to give more to church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Followers of Jesus wisely managing ALL that God has given to each of them, 24/7 and spending it according to God’s call • Generosity works against greed • Tithe: Giving one’s first and best 10% in thanksgiving to the living God who is the only Provider; practice initiated by God to keep people in the knowledge that He is their Provider

Session 2:

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Joseph Parsalaw

Table Talk:

1. Individually, look back at your notes from the keynote address. Individually and silently, write your answers to the question, “What is God saying to YOU?” in the space provided.

2. Go around the table and share ideas (without duplicating them) and write some of them in the space below.

3. Individually, look at your notes from Bishop Bradosky’s keynote address, the Q&A Panel, Mission District meetings, and Dr. Parsalaw’s keynote address. In the space provided, write key ideas, questions, and reflections.

4. Which ideas do you think are most important to share with your home congregation and ministry teams? Discuss.

5. Wrap-up: Take a brief moment to reflect individually. Then go around the group sharing answers to these questions:

a. What is the “one small step” you will take before leaving the conference?

b. And the first step you will take when returning home?

Appendices

NALC Upcoming Events 2017-2018

NALC Senior Ministry Conference

October 17-18, 2017

Culpeper, Virginia

For more information and registration, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2tUlcJO>

NALC Pastors' Conference

Life-to-Life Discipleship

San Antonio, Texas

Beginning at 8:30 AM on January 30, 2018

Concluding at Noon on February 1, 2018

For more information, contact: bseifert@thenalc.org

2018 Lutheran Week – NALC Convocation and Mission Festival

August 2018

TBA

Additional Resources Available

Fall Webinar Series: As we continue the emphasis on “Holding Fast - Being (re)Formed: Renewing Congregations through the Word of God,” join us this fall for our free webinar series with the Rev. Dr. Jim Nestingen. Details for specific times, dates, and connection information will be available on the NALC Staff Blog and newsletter.

Senior Ministry Conference: The first annual senior ministry conference will be held October 17–18, 2017. For more information, visit <https://missions.nalcnetwork.com/senior-ministry-conference>

Faithwebbing.com: Gary and Laurie Pecuch are ready to connect with you on all things related to children’s, youth, and/or family ministry, either through resource and service links, oodles of template forms and files, safeguarding tutorials, and archived webinars and video clips. You can connect with them on the NALCNetwork Faithwebbing forum (community.nalcnetwork.com) or directly through faithwebbing@gmail.com.

NALC Youth and Family Ministry Webinars: Gary and Laurie also offer monthly webinars during the school year on topics related to youth and family ministry. You can tune in live beginning the second Tuesday of September from 2 to 3 pm. Webinars are also archived for future viewing. Questions? Contact them at 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. Did we mention that, through an Eli Lilly grant, the experience is free of charge except for travel to and from Des Moines? Don’t miss this incredible opportunity!

Life Promotions: Another incredible youth ministry opportunity is available. Looking to attend a Quake (retreat weekend) during the school year or for a national experience in the summer? The NALC encourages congregations to consider <https://lifepromotions.org/> and <https://lifest.com/>

GOODNEWS! Media: This weekly video blog provides short reflections on discipleship, being mission driven and stories from across the NALC from the NALC staff and congregations. To connect, visit <https://missions.nalcnetwork.com>

GOODNEWS: This weekly staff blog from the Mission Office shares stories, travels and updates from life on the road. As we journey together as the Body of Christ, this allows for continued prayer requests, shared creative ideas and increased communication. Visit <https://missions.nalcnetwork.com> for more information.

Mission Resources on NALC Website: Designed specifically to connect pastors, leaders and congregations to requested resources. Includes video teaching, “how to” and other administrative documents, past training events and more at <http://thenalc.org/missionresources/>

Mission Connect: A weekly update from the Mission Office sharing stories of discipleship and mission across the NALC. You can sign up to receive a weekly email or text message by going to www.remind.com/join/mconnect for weekly emails or texting @mconnect to (614) 682-8693 for a weekly SMS.

Mission Finder: Mission cannot be done in isolation. It is about relationship and building strategic mission networks. Find information about other hands-on mission and ministry projects and short-term mission trips in the NALC at <https://missions.nalcnetwork.com>

Drops from the Well: Utilizing the readings from Sunday morning, Drops from the Well can be delivered to your phone (US phone numbers only) via a text message or to your email inbox. More than a verse-a-day, Drops from the Well focuses on sending out one key point or Gospel kernel with the hopes that you read and reflect on that drop each day of the week. To sign up Via SMS: Text “@dropswell” to 81010; for a weekly email go to <https://www.remind.com/join/dropswell>

Drops in Focus: Utilizing the same technology as Drops from the Well, but instead of sending the verse in a “text,” it is delivered to your phone in a picture image each week. The goal is to save this image to your phone and set it as your lock screen image. To sign up Via SMS: Text “@dropsfocus” to 81010; Via email go to <https://www.remind.com/join/dropsfocus> and complete the form.

Mission Connection Resource List

NALC Mission Teams

- <http://thenalc.org/missions/>

Videos, handouts, and audio from Mission Festivals

- <http://thenalc.org/mission-festival-2015/>
- <http://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/Documents/Missions/2015MF-Mission-imPossible-EEMI-assessment-tool.pdf>

Finding A Mission Partner

- NALC Mission – <http://thenalc.org/GCS>
- Global – <http://thenalc.org/GCS>
- Global Workers – <http://thenalc.org/global-workers/>
- Applying to be a mission partner – <http://bit.ly/2v4DNbY>

Tools to teach, discuss, and change culture

- Being Mission Driven – <http://thenalc.org/mission-videos/>
 - 2016 Mission Intensive – <http://thenalc.org/missiondrivenvideo/>
 - Convocation Archives – <http://thenalc.org/convocation-archive/>
- Discipleship Moments – <http://thenalc.org/discipleship-moment/>
 - <https://vimeo.com/159962086>
 - <https://vimeo.com/123683230>
 - <https://vimeo.com/121696699>
- Connect to Missions – <http://thenalc.org/mission-videos/>
- Being Christ Centered – <http://thenalc.org/drops-from-the-well/>
- Connecting with fellow missionaries – <http://www.nalcnetwork.com/>
- Building faith skills and spiritual disciplines – <http://www.faithwebbing.com/outcome-based-youth-ministry.html>

Session	Key Takeaways	Action Items/Next Steps
Session 1 - Bishop John Bradosky		
Panel Q & A		
Session 2 - Dr. Parsalaw		
Breakout Session		
Session 3 - Dr. Gemechis Buba		

