

Nominating Committee Report

The 2015 Nominating Committee presents the candidates named below for positions to be elected at the August NALC Convocation.

Regarding additional nominations for Executive Council and Court of Adjudication, the NALC Constitution (10.03, 15.01), specifies that "Three or more delegates representing at least three congregations may together submit an additional nomination in writing. To be in order, the nomination, together with supporting biographical information, must be submitted to the Nominating Committee no later than 45 days prior to the Convocation."

Please send additional nominations to nominations@thenalc.org by June 28, 2015.

We believe that the individuals nominated are qualified and would do well in their service if elected.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Hilbert Schultz, Chair
Pastor Carter Askren
Pastor Donald Brandt
Mr. Harvey Hengst
Pastor Theresa Jacobson

Bishop (4-year term)

+ The Rev. John Bradosky - Bradenton, Fla.

Executive Council - Lay Member (4-year term)

+ Rosemary Johnson - Conrath, Wis.
+ Stephen C. Lord - Colorado Springs, Colo.

Executive Council - Lay Member (2-year term)

+ John Elling - Holcombe, Wis.
+ Brian E. Sutton - Statesville, N.C.

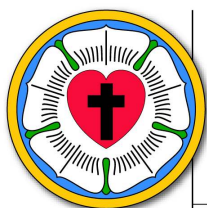
Executive Council - Ordained Minister (4-year term)

+ The Rev. Tom Hux - Salem, Ore.
+ The Carl L. M. Rasmussen - Kirkland, Ill.
+ The Rev. Paul Reiff - Sturgeon Lake, Minn.
+ The Rev. Eric Waters - Powell, Ohio

Court of Adjudication (4-year term)

(Two persons to be elected)

+ Carolyn Nestingen - Roseville, Minn.
+ The Rev. Marty Ramey - Dallas, N.C.



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

John Bradosky

Nominee for Bishop

Name:

Rev. John F. Bradosky

Address:

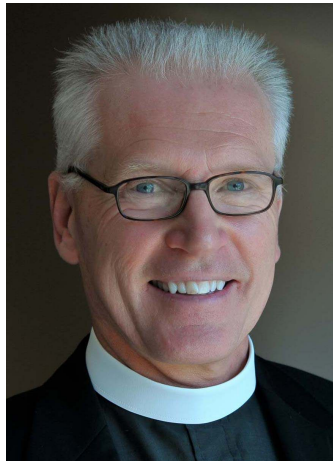
Bradenton, Fla.

Congregation:

Christ Lutheran Church
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Occupation:

Bishop of the North
American Lutheran Church



Basic biographical information:

Family:

Married to Kristi Bradosky, 39 years. The Lord blessed us with four children, three of whom are still living. Our oldest son, Joshua, died at the age of six in 1985. Our oldest daughter, Jessica, is married to Joe Seanoa, and they are parents of our two grandchildren, Ramsay and Brody. Jessica is an elementary school teacher, and Joe is a professional wrestler. Our son, Jacob, is married to Melissa. Their baby daughter, Reagan, lived for only 15 minutes. Jacob is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, and Melissa is a nurse, now pregnant with their second daughter. Our youngest daughter, Jordan, has just completed her doctorate at the University of Florida in physical therapy and is engaged to be married Aug. 1 to Jacob Byorth, a graduate of the Air Force Academy and an officer at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont.

Education:

Indiana University of Pennsylvania - B.A. Philosophy Honors Program (minor in Psychology), 1974.
Wittenberg University - Hamma School of Theology - Master of Divinity, 1978

Other Certifications:

- + Word and Witness - Certified Trainer.
- + Stephen Ministry - Certified Trainer.
- + Alpha Course - National Speaker and Trainer.

+ Organization training and experience in strategic planning, metrics, balanced scorecard, branding identity, and creating organizational culture through clearly defined and integrated values.

Hobbies:

- + Official for basketball, football and soccer for 33 years at both the high school and collegiate level.
- + Licensed private pilot since 1977.
- + Boating.
- + Scuba diving.
- + Skiing.
- + Racquetball.
- + Cycling.
- + Running — Competed in seven full marathons and two half marathons; qualified and competed in the Boston Marathon in 2011.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

Word and Sacrament Ministry:

- + St. John's Lutheran Church - Springfield, Ohio - Associate Pastor.
- + Trinity Lutheran Church - Canton, Ohio - Senior Pastor.
- + Grace Lutheran Church - Huntington Beach, Calif. - Senior Pastor.
- + Epiphany Lutheran Church - Dayton, Ohio - Senior Pastor.
- + North American Lutheran Church - Hilliard, Ohio - General Secretary.
- + North American Lutheran Church - Hilliard, Ohio - Bishop.

Throughout 37 years of ministry, I have been blessed by professors and pastors who have been faithful mentors and role models to both nurture and mature my faith and leadership gifts. I have served in diverse contexts including urban, suburban and multicultural, supervised multiple pastors and large staffs for both congregations and church schools, and developed organizational plans and administrative styles appropriate for each ministry context.

I have also served in a variety of other contexts:

- + Campus ministry.
- + Seminary recruiter.

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- + Chair for synod stewardship committee and division for outreach.
- + President of Canton Association of Churches.
- + Multiple Churchwide Assemblies.
- + President, Lutheran Bible Institute California Board of Directors.
- + Lutheran Bible Institute of California Adjunct Faculty Old Testament.

Writing and Presentational Experience:

- + Assisted in the design of ELCA Church-wide Call to Discipleship.
- + Author of the Bible Study for the “ELCA Church-wide Call to Discipleship.”
- + Author of several articles on Discipleship including “Discipleship vs. Membership.”
- + Keynote Speaker and Bible Study leader for numerous synods throughout the ELCA.
- + Teaching Congregation Seminar Speaker for Discipleship.
- + Developed curriculum and congregational process for developing Disciple Mentors.
- + Mt. Carmel Ministries Bible Study Leader

Mission Experience:

Mexico - Nicaragua - Tanzania - Uganda - Kenya - Ethiopia - Haiti - India.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Through assessment tools and conversations with both lay and clergy who have confirmed those assessments with their observations, I believe my spiritual gifts include: Leadership, Teaching, Administration, Discernment and Evangelism as it relates to Discipleship. My devotional life and commitment to the spiritual disciplines keeps my faith growing and challenges me daily in following Jesus. The richness of our Confessional heritage keeps me grounded, growing and grateful for opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. Through varied leadership experiences I have developed skills in the areas of strategic planning, metrics and values integration. Through my avocation as a sports official in high school and collegiate basketball, football and soccer, I have

also learned critical leadership skills regarding integrity, preparedness, fitness, accountability, decision making, resolving conflict, and dealing with passionate people in frustrating circumstances. In training for marathons, I have also learned about perseverance and endurance in running the race.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

It will be essential for the NALC to develop an organizational infrastructure that will support and sustain growth. This growth is both internal and external. Our internal strength is in Christ. Growing in our faith, through study, prayer and the other spiritual disciplines, equips us to live our faith in Christ. In that process we must strengthen our individual communities of faith (congregations and other mission starts) in ways that provide for mutual accountability, becoming fully equipped to share our faith with others so they too come to believe in Christ and are fully integrated into our life together in Christ. It is only through this internal growth that the Body of Christ will grow externally.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

It is my sincere hope that through the work of the Holy Spirit, pastors, lay leaders, and all who follow Jesus take personal responsibility for fulfilling Christ's command to “Go and make disciples of all nations.” As we nurture such faithful obedience to Christ, we will develop multiple expressions for implementing the Great Commission in every congregation. Small intimate house churches, growing fellowship groups, mission starts, new congregations, revitalizing and renewing existing congregations, and a growing commitment to invest and learn from international mission partners will all be expressions of a loving, obedient response to Christ. Such a response will eventually result in exponential growth even in the midst of an increasingly hostile environment.

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What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

1. Teaching the faith in ways that encourage discipleship, transformation of life, obedience to Christ, becoming fully equipped to disciple others in our home, community, workplace, and in all contexts where relationships can grow.
2. Strengthening every congregation's capacity for faithful caring that nurtures and supports disciples who are committed to supporting local, national and international mission, developing a reputation as loving, devoted followers of Jesus who love others as He loves us.
3. Provide new ways to launch or strengthen youth and family ministry in every congregation. This must not be relegated to large events alone, but networks of relationships that provide for the intimacy and community the next generation is seeking.
4. Take full advantage of the variety of means of communication and relation building tools that are available to us through technology. Beyond print there are many other ways to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and convey His loving care. By example we can encourage such development in our Mission Districts and local congregations.
5. Grow and expand the North American Lutheran Seminary and its effectiveness for developing spiritually mature pastors who are fully equipped for Word and Sacrament ministry, integrating our theological heritage with faithful lives obedient to Christ, prepared to disciple others as they teach the faith, investing themselves in the lives of others, embodying our values as they lead our congregations in mission and ministry.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

The vision for our Mission Districts was to keep them small and closely connected to our congregations so they can remain responsive to congregational needs. It is more difficult to maintain intimate connections if they grow too large to be responsive. The hope is that Mission Districts would remain small enough for Deans to check in with pastors and congregations on a regular basis, offer prayer support, communicate needs quickly so concerns can be addressed quickly. Perhaps in smaller groups, congregational leaders could gather together more frequently for mutual support and accountability for accomplishing the mission Christ established. Mission Districts are not a replacement for the former synodical structures. They exist for the sake of mission (thus the name). Being Christ-Centered, we must remain highly relational and incarnational in our approach. Our commitment to mission will need to find expression in every congregation by way of a Mission Team to encourage and equip the congregation for greater involvement in mission. In a similar way, every Mission District should also have a Mission Team that encourages involvement in larger mission projects supported by all the congregations in the Mission District. These structures are supported by the resources and encouragement of the NALC Mission Teams. Each of these teams are action-oriented in their commitment to facilitate mission through initiatives both small and large. These are actions every congregation and Mission District can begin immediately. Without gathering together to have such discussions about mission, praying together for guidance and discernment, there is little chance for "mission accomplished" (See Acts).

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Daily times for devotions, the reading and study of Scripture, meditation, reflection and prayer have become essential in my life for abiding in Christ. He speaks through His Word that is both Law and Gospel calling me to thankfulness and praise,

repentance and transformation of life, obedience in following Him, boldly sharing the Gospel with others in faithful proclamation and witness and lovingly caring for others according to their need. Christ Jesus is also manifest in my relationships with others, both those in the community of faith and those beyond. Where the joys and sorrows of life intersect with faith anchored in the living Lord Jesus Christ and the powerful truth of His Word, He is present. He is most powerfully present as the Body of Christ gathers for worship around Word and Sacrament. In the Word, sung, read and proclaimed, He is God with us. In the Word and water of Baptism, He gives life and direction of living. In the Word and elements of bread and wine, He fills us with His presence and promises of forgiveness and eternal life with Him.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

John 15:12-13: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Jesus is preparing His disciples for His death and He reminds them to remain in Him even as He is willing to remain in them. The relationship with Jesus has grown more intimate, and He no longer calls them servants but friends. Through the indwelling presence and faithful obedience they not only grow closer to Christ but He promises their lives will be fruitful. This word reminds me of the most important value in my ministry, the preciousness of relationships. It is the only thing in this life that lasts or matters. Jesus points out that everything else is dust and rust. All we have that gives life meaning, purpose and direction are relationships: a relationship with Jesus Christ through faith in Him and relationships with those He has given us, to love and care for. In Christ those relationships are eternal. That is the nature of our faith, discipleship and the Church. We are all giving our life away for some cause, but the words and example of Christ is to give our life for the sake of those relationships that matter infinitely to Him.

John Elling

Nominee for Executive Council - Lay

Name:
John Elling

Address:
Holcombe, Wis.

Congregation:
Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wis.

Occupation:
POD Book manufacturer



Basic biographical information:

Married to Kate for 42 years. We have two children, both living in Tacoma, Wash. We have one granddaughter, Svea, who turned one year old on April 12.

I attended Dana College in Blair, Neb., graduating in 1973 with a major in Fine Art and a minor in Economics.

I currently own a book manufacturing and fulfillment business with my brother. I have been in the business of ink on paper for more than 44 years.

Pastimes have included one aircraft restoration, numerous boat-building projects, and one classic wooden boat restoration. Currently, free time is spent on a never-ending home remodel. During the winter months, I take every opportunity to ride my snowmobile with members of our local snowmobile club.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

I feel my entire life has been continuous preparation for service in the church. I loved being part of every congregation my father served, and everyone in our family served in the congregation! As an adult member of Hope Lutheran Church, I have served as council president, taught Sunday school, led Bible Studies, and served on numerous committees.

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I am currently serving my second year as council vice-president. Last year I chaired an ad hoc committee responsible for drafting resolutions to present to the church council and congregation on how best to utilize an estate gift that would serve the Lord, honor the donor's wishes, and meet on-going needs of the congregation.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Of all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible, my strong four would be administration, discernment, leadership, and the gift of service.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

The NALC has not just survived; it has thrived in the first years of existence by honoring core values. Being Mission Driven means our church will be growing. Funding that growth will mean a continuing need for not just good, but great pastors, great staff, great lay leaders and dollars.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I have three for now, but my list will continue to grow with time.

1. I hope and pray that the NALC will continue to grow.
2. I hope and pray our outreach and ties to Lutherans throughout the world will become stronger.
3. I hope and pray the NALC will be a beacon to come to for Lutherans who feel lost and without voice.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

I believe continuing support for current NALC congregations and established congregations leaving the ELCA is a critical priority for the NALC.

As the number of congregations leaving the ELCA declines, the need for mission churches and house churches will increase because people who can't abide with a decision to remain with the ELCA will vote with their feet. LCMC congregations will be the landing place for many of these people, but many will seek out other church homes, and the NALC should and can be the best alternative for these displaced Lutherans.

Another priority is to continue a dialogue with other Lutheran church bodies/organizations to establish if there is any common ground. I don't believe we have to, or will, compromise our core beliefs in doing so.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts, and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

Every member of the NALC needs to recognize that bringing people to Christ will likely take us out of our comfort zone. A good way this can be done is by seeking input from congregations on ways they use to bring people into the church that can be cloned and used throughout the NALC.

My examples are not unique, probably not original, but, nonetheless, have really worked in our congregation.

In our community of Ladysmith we have multiple food pantries that are run by government agencies. The Hope Lutheran Church food pantry provides for more than 200 families each month, but I believe it does so in a spirit of Christian fellowship and love.

Our church is the locus for churches in our community, which share responsibility for preparing and serving a MANNA (Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All) meal in a setting of Christian fellowship.

During the school year our Youth Education Committee runs a "Wednesday School" where children have a meal, play some games and learn songs. Many of these songs are used in during worship on Sunday. The amazing thing about

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“Wednesday School” is how some non-member children lead their parents to church! I love this program!

Each of these programs is a tangible, easy-to-clone mission.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

For me, daily life means business. Business means everyday is filled with adventure. Some days I lead, some days I follow, and some days I just seem to be late. Every day I give thanks for my work, my time at home with family, for the new beginning each day brings. Throughout every day I pray for guidance, forgiveness or simply for solace. I look forward to Sunday worship, confession and forgiveness, communion and visiting during coffee time with other believers.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.” — Psalm 51:10-12 NIV

These have been my favorite verses and favorite prayer for as long as I have memory. They aren't the only important verses for me, but when I repeat them in prayer I feel a peace that no other words can bring to me.

Rosemary Johnson

Nominee for Executive Council - Lay

Name:

Rosemary Johnson

Address:

Conrath, Wis.

Congregation:

Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wis.

Occupation:

CFO/HR Corp Secretary
of small manufacturing
company



Basic biographical information:

Married 43 years in June to first love of life. Daughter is married, teaches at a Catholic high school and coaches Division 2 girls basketball Junior Varsity. Son is married, has four children, and is a corrections officer. Attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls a long time ago. Hobbies: reading (Christian history and Christian writers), gardening, bike riding, listening to Christian talk radio.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

During the past 30 some years I've been on Church Council both as secretary and as committee chair. While on Executive Committee, I've participated in calling a pastor and transferring membership from ELCA to NALC. I have helped revise the constitution, helped in a building addition project, taught Sunday school, served on Evangelism, Sunday School and Adult Education committees. I facilitated two Alpha classes and other adult education classes.

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What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

God has given me perseverance, patience, humility and a good work ethic. I was on the Flambeau School Board for nine years as clerk. During that time we hired an administrator, fired an administrator (same one) and consolidated four schools into one location. They were not easy times to go through. I was on Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center board for six years as treasurer and secretary. During that time I helped rewrite policies and procedures. We also purchased a portable ultrasound machine that is used in three rural communities. I helped write the policies and procedures for that project. I was chapter president for Thrivent for three years, and during that time we partnered with Habitat for Humanity and Time Out Abuse Shelter to raise funds. God has given me experience in negotiations, business and finance and human resource issues. He's given me peace about applying for this position.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

Aside from a culture where lies are considered truth and the mob mentality dictates decisions of importance, I believe the biggest challenges are for the NALC to stay true to the Word, to figure out ways to reach out and teach Jesus' love and redemption to all who don't know Him, and to support and strengthen the community of believers so they are empowered to let Jesus use them.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

That every day I hear or read about God's work being done through the NALC and/or its partners.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Modern discipleship education, provide for anyone called to be a minister to get the education needed, equip members to help others.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts, and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

Offer partnerships for specific projects so that a greater good can be done and we all have ownership. Donating money is usually necessary, but working together brings us together.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

God is in everything and is everywhere. I pray. I have verses posted all around. I listen to Christian music and talk radio even at work. I read the Bible and daily devotions. He gives me peace. He forgives me. He made me for a purpose. He's always been there since I was a little kid. I do the best I can because all I do is for Him. Then I mess up and He's right there to clean me up and start forward. I love that He loves me.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God!"

This verse tells me that I don't know everything, that I'm not a judge nor better than anyone else, and that I need to stop, listen and remember all He's done for me, how much he loves me and that He is God. It's so easy to be too busy and not listen to the quiet and see the beauty around you. This verse grounds me and sets me back on the right path after I take a big breath.

Stephen Lord

Nominee for Executive Council - Lay

Name:

Stephen C. Lord

Address:

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Congregation:

Black Forest Lutheran
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Occupation:

Retired



Basic biographical information:

I have a B.S. in Business Administration from The Citadel (1972) and a Master's Degree in Political Science from Troy State University (1978). My wife of 38 years, Nancy, and I live in Colorado and have three children: Stephanie, an ELCA pastor in Louisville Colo.; Elizabeth, an RN in Charleston S.C.; and Adam, an Air Force officer in Washington D.C. Stephanie has provided us with our grandchildren: Jonah (4) and Cora (1).

I am retired from both the Air Force and business. I flew in the Air Force for 12 of my 22 years, spending the last 10 as an intelligence officer. My time as an intelligence officer afforded me the opportunity to manage multimillion dollar projects, work with Congress, and command a unit of 1,500 personnel.

After retirement from the Air Force, I worked with the public in retail sales while a buyer for a privately owned lumber yard and as a Lutheran Brotherhood representative. I completed my working career as a defense contractor working on space programs for the Army. My days are spent working with my church, spoiling the grandkids and hiking, canoeing and camping with my wife.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

I have always been an active member of all the congregations we have been members of, serving

on many committees and boards. In my 38 years as a confirmed Lutheran, I have served on a board for a Lutheran camp, served on and led many different committees, and twice served as the council president of my current congregation, Black Forest Lutheran Church. The last time I was president was during a fairly acrimonious situation between the congregation and our ELCA synod at the time over the congregation's desire to join the NALC. I believe the congregation grew in faith and commitment through that experience.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Using Paul's enumeration of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians, I believe that I have been given gifts of knowledge, wisdom and discernment. My knowledge and wisdom have come through life experiences of maintaining a leadership position in every congregation of which I have been a member, in my Air Force career and in the business world.

Discernment has come through continual study of the Lord's Word, as well as my passion for history and studying others who have had to deal with the challenges of discernment, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

The challenge facing the NALC is to evangelize its core value of *Christ-Centered* to not only an indifferent, but increasingly hostile, secular world. Our challenge is to bring the Christ to those who need to know His sacrificial love, while being resisted every step of the way by a society that wants to reject Him because the culture sees the Word as restrictive, not freeing.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

One hope I have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years is to team with like-minded organizations to spread the freeing Word of Christ throughout the world, but especially North America through youth ministries, support of those experiencing disasters, and reaching out to those in

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need in their daily lives. We will succeed not only through large, well-organized programs but also through promoting the importance of one-on-one contact on the part of each of us helping another in need and witnessing to our faith.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

I believe that providing resources and constant encouragement for personal discipleship within our existing and newly planted congregations is the way to build up the body of Christ, one soul and one family at a time.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts, and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

We can support programs in our communities such as Habitat for Humanity, Stephen Ministries, food banks, and Disaster Relief efforts with funds and volunteer hours and not be shy that we are who we are — disciples of Christ.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

There is a constant pull in my life to reach out and share with others, be it through meeting with someone going through a difficult time, facilitating a Bible study group, leading a committee or organization of the church or participating in a relief effort. Without these daily activities, I feel I would have an emptiness in my life.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

“Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.” — Luke 12:37.

This verse reflects my belief of the importance of service to others on behalf of our Lord.

Brian Sutton

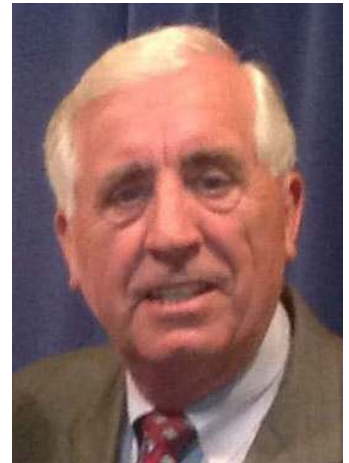
Nominee for Executive Council - Lay

Name:
Brian E. Sutton

Address:
Statesville, N.C.

Congregation:
St John's Ev. Lutheran
Statesville, N.C.

Occupation:
Retired corporate supply
chain and technology
manager



Basic biographical information:

Married to Hazel for 37 years. Have two married children and three grandchildren. Earned my BBA and MBA degrees at Montreat College in Montreat, N.C. Hobbies include woodturning, golf, music lessons to play the piano, member of local Ruritan Club addressing those in need in the community, enjoying time with grandchildren, helping others solve technology issues, and volunteering at the local hospital.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

During the course of the past 10 years, I have had the opportunity to serve our church in many capacities. For four of those years, served as Council President tasked with steering the church during a time of pastor vacancy including obtaining supply pastors and, in several cases, leading worship and preaching when supply pastors were not available. This responsibility, along with the opportunity to prepare for worship in a totally different perspective, has deepened my commitment to Christ and increased my understanding and appreciation for my relationship with our Savior. It has caused me to evaluate circumstances and situations through a different lens than I would have prior to this experience. I have served as lay delegate to the NALC

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Convocations in Columbus, Pittsburgh, and Charleston as well as the Carolina Mission District Convocations. As council president, led the congregation in ratifying the NALC constitution. Also influenced congregation in becoming affiliated with WordAlone and subsequently becoming an NALC congregation.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

God has provided me with the gift of leadership and compassion in working together with His people in ministry. God's gift of analysis and presentation and speaking skills have allowed me to serve our congregation in teaching Sunday School classes, leading stewardship programs, being a lector, Communion assistant, and a lay visitation team member visiting the homebound and hospitalized. Have also served on the constitution, finance, endowment, and renewal committees. God has blessed me with gift of building consensus and unity. During periods of a vacant pulpit, oversaw the administration area of the church, streamlining processes and restructuring responsibilities. Took the initiative to visit hospitalized and homebound members and to be generally responsive to the needs of the congregation.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

I think one of the greatest challenges or opportunities our denomination faces is in reaching the world with the relevance of the Gospel and how vital it is to a hurting humanity. We need to reverse the trend of losing evangelicals as portrayed in the book, *The Great Evangelical Recession*. Making disciples as opposed to members will be a huge paradigm shift for many congregations, but very essential to the church.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope and pray that God would move us to not only be bold in our proclaiming the Gospel, but that He would also move us to action in so many areas of

need: the inner cities, the youth of our country who are spiritual drifters, address the need for Christ in our society and in our governing agencies.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

- + Proclaim the Gospel!
- + Become Disciples.
- + Live and display Christ's love to all hurting people.
- + Stay true to the Confessions and Scripture in all our practices.
- + Grow a strong young cadre of NALC trained seminarians.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

- + Take Christ to the community.
- + Be welcoming to visitors to our worship services.
- + Be willing to stretch our comfort zones in reaching the unchurched.
- + Place more emphasis on our Christianity than on our Lutheran history.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Daily devotions, prayer and Bible reading/study. Participation in small group prayer and sharing.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Joshua 24:15: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." This reminds me of what my purpose really is. It reminds me that all I am and have, are gifts from and God and the only appropriate response to God is to serve Him and utilize these gifts to His glory.

Tom Hux

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:

Rev. Tom Hux

Address:

Salem, Ore.

Congregation:

Our Savior's Lutheran
Salem, Ore.

Occupation:

Pastor

**Basic biographical information:**

Born and raised in California, God has blessed my life in many ways. My parents, both still living, raised me and my three sisters in the church, attending weekly worship, Sunday School, and youth events. In high school my pastor asked me to help run the middle school program and, in college, our high school program. After a lot of prayer, God called me to finish college at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle (now Trinity Lutheran College) where I met my future wife, Brenda LeMaster, and earned a bachelor's degree in Biblical studies. I then attended seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., where I earned my M.Div. degree. Upon graduation I received my first call to the Galata Lutheran Parish (a very rural three-point parish on the northern prairie of Montana). After my first year of ordained ministry, Brenda and I were married. The first two of our three sons were born in Montana. In 1996, we were called to serve in Salem, Ore., at Our Savior's Lutheran Church where our third son was born. I was called originally as the Associate Pastor, but after three years of serving together, Pastor Don Brandt suggested that our titles be changed to co-pastors. We have served together for almost 19 years.

Our eldest son, Victor, is now married and in college pursuing music and worship ministry and plans to attend seminary. Our second son, Thomas, is also in college pursuing the same degree and is interning this summer as a worship leader. Our youngest son, Luke, will be a senior in high school

next year and plans to attend college, though he's not sure of his career plans.

Outside of church ministry, my passion is SCUBA diving and Abalone diving, neither of which I get to do as much as I would like. I have a growing hobby of photo and video editing that I have used for our family and our congregation. I have also been known to play a video game now and then.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

I have 24 years of ordained ministry in both rural and suburban locations. I have served four years on the board of directors for the Mid-Willamette Valley Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, two as board president. I have led a ministry team at the Oregon State Penitentiary for 18 years and served two years on the Religious Service Advisory Council for the Oregon Department of Corrections. I have led numerous international mission trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Jamaica, South Africa, and domestically in Biloxi, Miss., following Hurricane Katrina. In the NALC, I have served on the Great Commission Society board and helped develop the GCS website.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

God has blessed me with a love for people and the ability to build deep relationships with people of diverse backgrounds. God has blessed me with a love for the Bible and the ability to preach and teach from its authority. Some have said I am a good listener and occasionally able to offer wise counsel. I value straight-forward conversation and work hard to follow the Apostle Paul's admonition to "speak the truth in love" with all people in all settings.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

1. Identity. From within, we have the ongoing challenge to keep the Great Commission at the heart of all that we do. It is too easy to slip into denominational parochialism, more concerned with making Lutherans out of people than discipling

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Christians. From without, we face the ongoing challenge of battling the label and impression that the NALC only exists on the basis of anti-homosexuality. These will be ongoing.

2. Demographics. We are an aging denomination and face the challenge of every denomination to find ways to engage, evangelize, and disciple the generations growing up.

3. Moving beyond the regional concentration of NALC congregations in the East and Midwest and expanding the NALC's presence in the West. As a member of one of two NALC congregations in Oregon, it gets lonely out here, and it is imperative that we strengthen the bond between congregations and the NALC.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

The NALC was founded on the solid grounds of Scripture, prayer, and the Confessions of the Lutheran faith. It was founded with the understanding of the Church's one central mission — the Great Commission. I believe that, if we remain humble, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to equip and guide us, and if we keep focused on the Great Commission, God will bless this new church with growth. Though our culture is often described as a "post-Christian" culture, I believe there are many people hungry for the gifts Jesus came to bring to our lives and this world: grace and truth.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

1. Evangelism, teaching and empowering individuals and congregations to humbly but confidently share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our nation.

2. The continued development of our ordination process and seminary educational opportunities to train, equip, and send out a new generation of Scripturally-grounded pastors.

3. Continuing to grow the church by planting new congregations and reaching the unchurched, not just relying on church growth by transfers from other congregations or denominations.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts, and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

1. Be faithful, modeling a humble reliance on prayer and remaining steadfast in our commitment to the Holy Scriptures and the central mission of the Church.

2. Be present. Especially in the West, NALC leaders need to be intentional about being physically present in congregations, allowing congregations to put faces and personalities with names, and build trust as relationships are formed and strengthened.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I remember the day I was ordained and heard the bishop's assistant read off the daunting list of duties contained in my ordination vows. Though the liturgical response required of me was to answer, "I will and I ask God to help and guide me," in my heart I was so overwhelmed all I could think was, "I'll try!" As my years of ministry add up, I am very aware of my sins and failings, as a Christian and as a pastor. God has been working on my heart, asking me if I really believe that Jesus loves me, as I am, not as I should be. God's Spirit has been ministering to my heart, reaffirming that He really does! The peace and security offered in this love free me to confess my failings and embrace the opportunities of a new day of grace and to re-embrace the privilege of serving my Lord who loves me and sent me to love others. God's grace is awesome!

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List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 has guided my life since I first began to respond to God's call for me:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

I never wanted to be a pastor, but God has surprised me and blessed me with His plan for my life that was greater than anything I could have imaged. It reminds me that the keys to discovering God's will, whether for my individual life or for congregations and entire denominations is to first seek God with all our hearts and pray. God is so good, and so faithful when we allow Him to truly be our God.

Carl Rasmussen

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:

Carl L. M. Rasmussen

Address:

Kirkland, Ill.

Congregation:

First Lutheran Church
Kirkland, Ill.

Occupation:

Pastor



Basic biographical information:

My wife, Nancy, and I have been married for 37 years. We have three grown children: Andrew, Matthew, and Peter.

Andy and his wife, Izabelle, live in Sugar Grove, Ill. They have been married almost six years and have given us our first grandchild, Samuel, who is almost three years old and is a great joy to our whole family. Andy is an IT Technical Associate in the College of Business at Northern Illinois University. Izabelle is a Global Mobility manager with a major U.S. corporation.

Matthew and his wife, Sarah, have been married four years and are expecting their first child in June this year. They live in Bay City, Mich., where Matthew is the Music Administrator for Zion Lutheran Church and School. Sarah is a teacher at Faith Lutheran Church and School.

Peter lives in Oswego, Ill., where he is a Physical Therapist with Advocate Dreyer Medical Clinic.

We are blessed that Andy and his family and Peter live close enough to worship with us almost every week. And we love to travel to Michigan as often as possible to spend time with Matthew and his family.

I graduated in 1975 from Dana College in Blair, Neb., with a B.A. in music. In 1979 I received my M.Div. from Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul,

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Minn. In my second and fourth years of seminary, I served as the seminary chapel organist. My year of internship took place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rhinelander, Wis.

Music is my main hobby. I rarely play organ these days, but I keep my piano skills current by regularly practicing both classical and ragtime repertoire. I direct our congregation's choir, and play guitar to lead the singing at our Saturday worship services. So music is both a hobby and a calling for me. I also enjoy playing chess and golf. My favorite pastime of all is traveling with my lovely wife, Nancy.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

I have been an ordained pastor for 36 years — serving rural congregations in Saskatchewan, an urban congregation in Calgary, Alberta, and now a small-town congregation in Illinois.

In Saskatchewan, in the ELCC (predecessor body to the ELCIC), I was a conference president, which is comparable to being a Mission District dean. I have served on several governing bodies, both church and community based: Bethany Care Centre (nursing home) board member in Calgary, Alberta; Lutheran Campus Ministry board member at Northern Illinois University; Opportunity House (developmentally handicapped services agency) board member in Sycamore, Ill.; and Kirkland Development Association (government subsidized housing facility) board member in Kirkland, Ill.

I currently serve as a member of the NALC's Great Rivers Mission District council. My congregation is a domestic mission partner with an NALC mission congregation in South Carolina, and an international mission partner with a congregation in Ethiopia. I have been privileged to visit both of these congregations and to preach at their worship services.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I love Jesus Christ and His Church. I love the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. I am

grateful and happy to be part of the NALC. I believe I am an effective preacher, teacher, and counselor, an able leader of my congregation in both its internal and external life and dynamics, a discerning and knowledgeable theologian, and a good communicator. I enjoy teamwork and always commit myself to fostering happy and productive relationships with coworkers and within the church as a whole.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

I see two major challenges, both related to growth.

First, the need to continue growing in order that our faithful witness to Jesus Christ, to which we are so passionately committed, might reach and convict more and more people in a world increasingly hostile to that witness.

Second, as growth takes place, the need always to foster strong, gracious, Christ-like relationships throughout the NALC, with the leaders of the church trusted and loved, and congregations and members experiencing belonging and being valued. Tending to these relationships through caring communication and regular contact with the leadership is essential in order for us to grow not only outwardly, but also to grow strong inwardly. It is also challenging, given the vast territory of the NALC.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope and pray that through our witness, the Holy Spirit will move many hearts to embrace the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, proclaimed in Holy Scripture as Law and Gospel, and thereby to experience the joy, peace, and fulfillment that is life in Christ. I hope we will continue to speak up, lovingly and courageously, for the holy estate of marriage as taught in Scripture, for the lives of the unborn, and for religious freedom; and that we will not grow discouraged, no matter how much of a minority voice we may become in our culture. And I continue to hope that those congregations, pastors, and members of the ELCA whose convictions would make them more at home in the NALC will increasingly be ready and able to join us.

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What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

+ Internal strength and mutual affection as a church body, with all congregations and pastors experiencing the NALC as a place of belonging and being valued.

+ Supporting our deans in their crucial role, which plays such a large part in enabling our congregations and pastors to experience the NALC as a whole.

+ Continued emphasis on the annual NALC Pastors' Conference.

+ Continued support for our seminary (the NALS), and making the time period for seminary education more consistent. Improving and growing in the challenging area of candidacy.

+ Hands-on caring for vacant congregations.

+ Strengthening the call process.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

For congregations, providing worship services that are Christ Centered and Traditionally Grounded, honoring and utilizing our liturgical traditions, and winsomely inviting the community to those services — and also exercising freedom, respecting the validity of various emphases within those liturgical traditions, while avoiding novelty and pandering. Quality worship is the most important tangible action we can take to be both Christ Centered and Mission Driven.

For the NALC and its Mission Districts, perhaps the most tangible actions for living out these commitments will be to attend to the core value of being Congregationally Focused. The more that congregations and pastors are encouraged, inspired, and engaged by the bishop and the deans, the more these commitments will be lived out.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

+ Daily devotions, Bible reading and prayer. Luther's Morning Prayer has proven especially meaningful, year after year.

+ Conversation and consolation, and Bible study with fellow pastors and with congregational leaders and members. God speaks His word to me on the lips of fellow believers.

+ Suffering and cross-bearing, understanding that this too is an encounter with God as He seeks to conform me more and more to the image of His Son.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage, be not frightened, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Meditating on this verse reminds me never to lose heart despite any discouragement or conflict. It gives me courage and freedom from fear, knowing that God is with me in both the struggles and the victories of life and ministry.

Paul Reiff

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:

Rev. Paul G. Reiff

Address:

Sturgeon Lake, Minn.

Congregation:

Faith Lutheran Church
Sturgeon Lake, Minn.

Occupation:

Pastor



Basic biographical information:

I have been married to my wife Raychel for 42 years. We have four grown married children, and four grandchildren.

I am a graduate of Augsburg College and Luther Seminary. I received my D.Min. from Lutheran School of Theology Chicago, and the ELCA certified me as a Chaplain.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

My whole life has been as a part of the Christian Church. I remember my first Sunday School program in the basement of St. John's Lutheran Church in Richmond, Ind. My line in the program was, "There's work to be done for the Master." What a privilege to still be able to "work for the Master!"

During my ministry I served on the youth committee of the Southern District of The American Lutheran Church. I served on the evangelism and racism committees of the Northwest Wisconsin Synod of the ELCA. I served as a member of the synod council of Northeastern Minnesota of the ELCA.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

My life long experience in the church has gifted me with the prospective of a multigenerational appreciation for the work of the church.

I grew up with the stories of great-grandparents who were charter members of the first Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, or who gave land for another church and of a grandfather who was a missionary to America after being raised in the Hermansberg Mission in Basel, Switzerland.

These memories of the great mission of our faith have gifted me with a grand sense of appreciation for the mission of the church that must not be lost but passed on to the next generation!

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

We live in an ever increasingly pluralistic society. Many in our culture would seek to suppress or ignore the witness of our faith. The challenge of our generation is to have the courage to be faithful to our Lord, and to pass this faith and love of God to our children and world.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

It is my hope that each of our congregations and its individual members would catch a vision for the mission of Christ's church. I pray that each congregation and member would come to see themselves as claimed and sent by our Lord to bring His loving word to our world.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Our priority needs to be to proclaim the love of Christ to our world. This proclamation needs to call and equip our individual members, both adult and youth, to see themselves as participants in God's mission in Christ to our world.

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What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts, and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

The first tangible action is for our pastors to be bold in Christ. The leader of the flock must be certain of the Lordship of Jesus in order for the congregation to be bold and certain in Christ!

Second, our districts and congregations need to have local and distant mission projects that involve both the adult and younger members in order for us to grasp Christ's vision for mission.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Our Lord's Prayer says, "Give us this day our daily bread." I experience God's loving activity in daily life through the love of family and in His daily good gifts. These gifts come through a loving wife, warm house, good meals, the laughter of grandkids, or in our support for one another in time of need. I also see God's activity in the prayers of the congregation for my family, in a word of Scripture that comes to mind at any time, and in the beauty and bounty of the earth. In these and countless other ways I see God's action in my daily world.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Jeremiah 29:11: "I know the plans I have for you says the Lord."

In the dark days of discouragement and uncertainty these comforting words of the prophet come to mind. This prophetic promise has been an anchor for me in the gales of life, and I have shared this promise of hope with many in their times of trial. Moreover, I have seen God's faithfulness to the truth of this promise happen in the lives of numerous people.

Eric Waters

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:
Rev. Eric Waters

Address:
Powell, Ohio

Congregation:
Upper Arlington Lutheran
Columbus, Ohio

Occupation:
Pastor



Basic biographical information:

Married to Michelle for 18 years. We are blessed with six children (ages 14 to 3) whom we homeschool in a Classical Christian model. Graduated from Dartmouth College, Yale Divinity School, and Luther Seminary.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

Ordained in 2001 and have served two large churches: First Lutheran (Fargo, N.D.) and Upper Arlington Lutheran (Columbus, Ohio). Member of the Younger Theologians' Colloquium. Have served on the Renewal Team since the inception of the NALC Mission Leadership Team. Have helped to plan and put on each of the NALC's Mission Festivals.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

The Lord has given me the gifts of preaching and teaching and blessed me with an unusual education. I have been involved with The Navigators and am currently helping to implement a discipleship process in our congregation. I am very active in the Mission Team of the NALC, focusing on the renewal of congregations.

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What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

We will experience growing pains as we continue to grow. I am concerned that gay rights activists will target churches like the NALC for legal and political action.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

My biggest hope is that our discipleship initiative takes root and gains momentum. I have been blessed by the initiative, both as a child of God and as a pastor. I see the effect it is having on my congregation as more and more people are reading the Bible (even bringing it to church on Sundays!), drawing closer to the Lord through the Word, and beginning to reach out to friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. Discipleship is the engine that will grow the NALC in size and numbers, motivating and equipping us to reach out into a dying world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

+ Discipleship — continue to press forward with the discipleship initiative so that our congregations are revitalized and equipped to bear witness to an increasingly hostile world.

+ Mission — continue to connect each congregation with a local, national, and international mission partner, so that mission becomes “real” for every congregation.

+ Raising up pastors — pray that the Lord will raise up a new generation of pastors from among us. Intentionally look for those new men and women as their faith catches fire in the discipleship process.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts, and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

+ Continue to bear witness in the public arena, especially as doing so becomes ever more difficult and costly.

+ Continue to press forward with the discipleship initiative so that congregations are renewed, and thus inspired to reach out in mission and share their excitement about the Good News.

+ Continue to cultivate the spiritual life of pastors and renew the leaders of the church as a means of renewing the church itself.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I begin every morning with the *Te Deum* or the *Venite*, read and journal on a passage of Scripture to hear what the Lord is saying to me, then end with my prayer journal and the Lord's Prayer. Keeping Scripture and prayer journals helps me keep my eyes open to see God active throughout the day. I often experience His work through my pastoral duties like visitation, counseling, Bible study, and adult education. Finally, I have the joy of seeing the Holy Spirit grab hold of my children's hearts and draw them closer to Jesus.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

1 Peter 1:23-25: “You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for ‘All flesh is grass, and its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.’ And this word is the good news that was preached to you.”

By the grace of God, I have been called through the Gospel and born again through the Word. The Lord has given me the privilege of preaching that same life-giving and life-changing Word to others. This verse gives me courage in the hard times and joy in the good times.

Carolyn Nestingen

Nominee for Court of Adjudication

Name:

Carolyn Nestingen

Address:

Roseville, Minn.

Congregation:

St. Paul Lutheran Fellowship
St. Paul Minn.

Occupation:

Retired Attorney



Basic biographical information:

Married 46 years to Jim Nestingen, three sons, five grandchildren.

I received a B.A. in French and English from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. In 1966, a Masters' Degree in French from the University of Wisconsin in 1968, and a J.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1978.

I practiced law in Minneapolis-St. Paul for 35 years, focusing on employee benefits law, before retiring in 2012.

Hobbies are gardening, reading and weaving.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

I have served on this Court of Adjudication since its beginning, and have been involved with the other members of the Court in its establishment and in approving its rules.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

My legal training of applying the "law", here the constitution of the NALC, to the particular facts at hand, and my experience as a lawyer in doing this, has and will assist me in serving on this court.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

The NALC is countercultural. We need to find ways to speak the message of God's forgiveness and love to a world not receptive to such a word, and be open to ways in which God leads us to do that.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

My hope is that the NALC will be clear in its Biblical message of God's love and forgiveness to us sinners, will train its pastors to preach that Word clearly, and will find unity in this message.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Mission

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

Preaching emphasis, conferences on preaching for pastors focusing on conveying the gospel, encouragement of congregations to reach out.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Daily devotions and prayer bring me before God each day. God works in so many ways that are not perceptible in the present, only afterward. But God's power is clear, and usually in surprising ways.

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List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Psalm 104: "O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures, Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, creatures both small and great. There move the ships and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it."

When we despair, this psalm reminds us of the great power of God. That He made the largest creature on earth simply for the sport of it can tell us that he is in charge and will not abandon us.

Marty Ramey

Nominee for Court of Adjudication

Name:

Rev. Marty Ramey

Address:

Dallas, N.C.

Congregation:

Trinity Lutheran Church
Fletcher, N.C.

Occupation:

Intentional Interim Pastor



Basic biographical information:

Married 19 years, husband Marion, retired/disability; daughter, Tricia, has two children, Jared, 16; and Abby, 14; son, Mike and wife, Courtney, have one daughter, Makenzi, 5; daughter, Brynn, single.

I earned B.S. in Microbiology from Purdue University and M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Completed CPE Residency for Chaplaincy at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C.

Hobbies: gardening, reading, knitting.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

Certified Intentional Interim Minister, Centers for Congregational Health, Winston-Salem, N.C.; served several congregations in conflict, currently serving as Intentional Interim Minister at Salem Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC

Served as chaplain at Lutheran Homes in Hickory, N.C., for three years, chaplain at Hospice of Lincoln County for three years, working with families in conflict and crisis

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What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Gift of discernment of underlying issues in conflict, patience and compassion in working with those in crisis, insight into how God can work in crisis to effect spiritual growth in individuals and congregations

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

Continuing focus on mission, not falling back into patterns of behavior from predecessor churches that inhibit outreach and evangelism.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

Increasing commitment to growth in discipleship, both lay and clergy, through The Navigators or other vehicles that help develop deeper spiritual understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Mission starts and development of house-church model.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its Mission Districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church body?

Develop a strong curriculum-type set of materials that focuses on development of true disciples, encouraging all to become more Scripturally literate and to make the connection between faith and daily life. Our Mission District is already doing a good job of providing opportunities during district meetings and at our annual pastoral convocation for Bible study and spiritual formation. I would like to see us offer more such opportunities for lay people as well.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Daily devotions, morning and evening, with meditation and contemplative prayer. Journaling and study of Scripture to relate to events and situations I encounter in daily life. Relationships with family and congregation provide frequent reminders of how God is present with us through the love we share with others. I feel very blessed in my family and church family to receive continuing encouragement and affirmation on a daily basis.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Romans 5:1-5. Having had a goodly share of suffering in my life, I am able to see how God strengthened my faith through that suffering; how He used it to produce hope in times that seemed hopeless; and in how many ways God's love has been poured into my heart through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Like St. Paul, I have learned how to rejoice in all circumstances. Even our darkest despair can bring us to new spiritual awareness of the goodness of God and the magnitude of His love for us in giving His Son to die for us so that He might rise victorious over sin, death and the devil. And living in the way God calls us to live is the most important outcome of realizing the depths of His love. I thank God every day for the grace so freely given and the faith so lovingly nurtured.