

2016 North American Lutheran Church Convocation

Workshops — Friday, August 12 12:15 – 1:30 PM

The Necessity of Church Planting: It's Not an Option! — *Pr. Brad Hales, New Starts Team*

If the kingdom of God is going to grow as we make disciples for Jesus Christ, then we need to be serious about planting more churches in the NALC. Come and learn from the New Starts Team about how to plan and plant a new church in your area.

Room Name: Catalina A I

Mission Driven: It's Catching! — *Great Commission Society Team*

Being Mission Driven is more than sending a check. Being Mission Driven is about changing culture. Meet with members of the Great Commission Society — Pastor Judy Bangsund, Lynn Kickingbird, and Pastor Paul Larson — and hear how they live out being Mission Driven in their congregations and mission districts and the impact it has in the lives of their congregations.

Room Name: Catalina A II

Callings! — *Pr. Charles Lindquist, World Mission Prayer League*

Does God still “call” average Christians into global missionary service? How would you recognize a case of “calling” in your own congregation? Would you recognize a genuine calling — if God were to call *you*? This workshop will describe the dynamic of missionary callings, with practical ideas for promoting them in your congregation, recognizing callings when they emerge, and stewarding callings right through to placement in global service.

Room Name: Catalina A III

Lutheran Benefits Plan Update — *Verlyn Hahn, CFP, Hahn Financial Group*

This workshop will provide an overview of the NALC Lutheran Benefits programs: 1) The NALC self-funded Health/Ancillary Plan; 2) The NALC Ancillary Only Option; and 3) The NALC Denominational 403(b)9 Retirement Plan. Information on the various plan benefits will be presented. Topics will include actionable strategies that may help influence the stewardship and longevity of both your personal health and wealth.

Room Name: Santa Barbara
(Mezzanine Level)

Why I Don't Believe in a Rapture — *Pr. Mark Braaten, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Tyler TX*

Teachings of a “Rapture” – a miraculous removal of Christians from the earth – are quite popular in our day. However, the biblical grounds for this teaching are quite flimsy. Dr. Braaten will lead a workshop examining this teaching from a Biblical perspective, with particular emphasis on what the book of Revelation actually says. This workshop is BYOB – Bring Your Own Bible!

Room Name: Avalon 2

New from Sola Publishing! — *Pr. Steve King and Pr. Amy Little*

Sola Publishing will be presenting an overview of the upcoming Holy Families! Initiative, a 2017 Anniversary of the Reformation project for faith formation and spiritual development for families. The initiative is funded by a grant from Thrivent to the NALC. There will also be a short presentation on using Sola's Online Worship and E-Resource (SOWeR) for discipleship in congregations. And finally, you will have a chance to greet Rev. Eddy Perez and purchase a copy of his new book, "The Blowing Wind," which is a memoir of his faith journey from communist Cuba to the United States.

Room Name: Catalina C I

faithwebbing.com: A Website Tutorial — *Gary Pecuch, Consultant for Youth and Family Ministry*

Faithwebbing.com provides NALC congregations with web-based youth ministry coaching. Attend to become familiar with the website, learn what it is currently being offered and what you can expect in the future.

Room Name: Catalina C II

Lutheran World Relief: Lasting Promise from U.S. to Tanzania to around the world! — *LWR Staff*

Join staff from Lutheran World Relief to learn how Lutherans have been putting their faith into action since 1945 for the sake of those living in poverty around the world. LWR's Country Program Director for Tanzania, Moses Kabogo, will share stories of communities moving from scarcity to abundance. LWR's Senior Manager for Constituent Engagement will share stories of how the faith of Lutherans makes stories like this happen all around the world. Come learn how LWR's work of sustainable development can be a part of your congregation's mission and take free resources home with you!

Room Name: Avalon 3

Church Communications Workshop — *Pr. Mark Ryman, NALC Communications Coordinator*

This workshop will explore what churches are often communicating, as opposed to what they should be communicating. It will deal with this topic while considering practical things like brochures, websites, and even where to find graphics for bulletins and newsletters. Finally, the workshop will touch on how congregations might more effectively utilize social media. A CD with graphics and type fonts will be given to each person who attends the workshop (while supplies last).

Room Name: Catalina C III

How the Church Can Find Relevance Through the Media Without Changing the Message — *John Ware, 168 Film Project*

Star Wars, Pokémon and the media have incredible magnetism on young kids and millennials. Learn new strategies to attract them to Jesus Christ.

Room Name: Anacapa
(Mezzanine Level)