



Faith is Made Whole in Community Mission Festival 2016

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” – I Peter 2:4-5

Table of Contents

Welcome	1
Schedule	3
NALC Core Values	4
Mission Team Leaders	5
Great Commission Society Update	7
Renewal Team Update	9
New Starts Team Update	11
International Mission Team Update.....	14
NALC Global Workers	15
Keynote Presenters.....	17
Faith Stone Breakouts and Presenters.....	18
Session 1 Information, Table Talk and Notes.....	25
Table Talk: Building Your Spiritual House – A Community Effort.....	26
Mission Connection Resource List	35
Panel: What to Do When Mission Gets Messy.....	36
Mission District Meetings.....	37
Session 2 Information, Table Talk and Notes.....	42
Table Talk: Faith Is Made Whole in Community – Faith Webbing	43
Session 3 Information, Table Talk and Notes.....	44
Faith Stone Breakout Training Notes	45
Appendices.....	46
NALC Upcoming Events 2017	47
Mission Office Training Webinars.....	48
Additional Resources Available.....	49
Mission Light vs. Mission Deep	50
The Church: Institutionalism vs. Kingdom of God.....	51
Action Steps	53
Notes	54

Welcome

FAITH IS MADE WHOLE IN COMMUNITY

*“Holy God, Holy Lives” — You can’t be mission driven by yourself.
God has given us family. The church.*

Kintsugi is a beautiful form of Japanese art that is very counter-cultural to our American sensitivities. In American culture, we go to extreme lengths to cover our blemishes and brokenness. We are master make-up artists. We put on false exteriors and push our wounds deep into the recesses of our souls. These wounds are so deep that most will never know the wounds are there. Sometimes even we don’t know they exist.

Jesus compares the teachers of the law to whitewashed stones in Matthew 23:27. They are beautiful on the outside, but the inside is full of death and brokenness. So much of our time is spent covering our brokenness. We whitewash our lives so they look pristine to anyone who sees us. We hide our struggles because we have believed the lie that showing our wounds is weak. We have bought into the culture’s belief that our definition of beauty is the same as our Creator’s.

It is not! Christ tells us a different story. Life — the Jesus life — isn’t about never showing weakness or working to hide every crack in our image. The Jesus life is trusting that He holds us in our brokenness. He works with our wounds. Our pieces are placed back together by the Creator of creativity. But the other truth is this: brokenness doesn’t heal alone. Isolated, our brokenness is the shattered shards of dreams and hopes and failures. In community, through faith and love, our brokenness becomes the masterpiece of God’s mosaic. And it is beautiful.

This is what *Kintsugi* is about. Instead of throwing away the broken, it is the painstaking task of restoration. Instead of working hard to remove the evidence of the broken, the artist highlights the remnant fractures by infusing the glue with gold. The result is an unparalleled and unduplicatable work of art. It bears the artist’s touch, but also a devotion and tenderness.

This is the work of Jesus on you. He is restoring you, not by removing every wound this life has carved into you. Instead, through Christ’s cross, the one who knit you together in the womb is gluing you back together. The gold is His glory, and it highlights His handiwork.

Like all good artists, the Lord has a studio where this work is played out. We are His studio. The Body of Christ. The community.

Luke 5 tells the story of a paralyzed man being healed by Jesus. Friends lowered the man through the roof of a house because they couldn’t get through the crowd. Verse 20 says, “When Jesus saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’”

Those friends were the studio. It was their faith that moved Jesus. Faith is communal. Without others, it is something less. The community is God's mosaic.

Come. Be a part of what God is up to in His studio. We know it is risky, but lean into those wounds and watch the Artist make something beautiful for His grand mosaic.

Schedule

Wednesday, August 10

- 1:30 pm **Worship** — Bishop John Bradosky
- 2:15 pm **Mission Festival Session I — Faith is Made Whole in Community: The Biblical Basis**
Keynote Address: The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba
Also includes: Testimonies, Panel Q & A, and Table Talk
- 5:00 pm End of Session I
- 5:30 pm Dinner (included in registration fee)
- 7:30 pm Mission District Meetings

Thursday

- 8:00 am Devotion led by Steve Bell
- 8:30 am **Mission Festival Session II - Faith is Made Whole in Community: Faith Webbing**
Keynote Address: Gary Pecuch
Also includes: Table Talk and Testimonies
- 9:25 am **Mission Festival Session III - Faith is Made Whole in Community: Outcome Based Ministry**
Keynote Address: Gary Pecuch
Also includes: Faith Stone Breakout Sessions
- 11:30 am Mission Festival concludes
- 11:30 am Lunch (included in registration fee)

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.



Mission Team Leaders



Pastor Brad Hales is chair of the New Starts team, and 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.



Mr. Rod Hackman serves as co-chair of the Great Commission Society (GCS). He is a graduate of Purdue University and the University of Charleston, West Virginia. A professional engineer, his work at Rod Hackman LLC of Charleston provides process improvement and safety engineering consultation. He has provided such consultation internationally, including work in Russia, Saudi Arabia, The Netherlands, Morocco, and Alberta, Canada. Prior to forming his own business, he worked for DuPont Chemical Company. Raised in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Rod has been working closely with both CORE and the NALC in the area of missions. He is an active member of his congregation in Charleston, West Virginia, and has served as an elder, VBS teacher, and Bible study leader. In the LCMS he served as a Sunday school superintendent. He and his wife, Elaine, live in Charleston and are the parents of four children and two grandchildren. For more information, please contact Rod at: dreamnwv@gmail.com.



Rachel Sosebee serves as co-chair of the GCS Team and lives in the North Raleigh area. She and her family moved to North Carolina in 2013 from Ohio. In Ohio, Rachel served in the NALC, first as a volunteer, then on staff in the Columbus, Ohio, office in various positions, and is now back to volunteering as the chair of the Great Commission Society Team and as a member of the Carolinas Mission District Mission Team. Before the NALC, Rachel served as the Director of Ministry Initiatives at St. Paul Lutheran Church (Columbus, Ohio) where she helped people discover their gifts and call for ministry in and out of the church. Today, she continues to encourage people in their ministry in the church, outside the church, in their homes, and anywhere

and everywhere God leads them, while focusing on raising two children, supporting her husband, and raising their chickens and vegetables. For more information, please contact Rachel at: family.sosebee@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. He recently accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Boerne, Texas. 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 Powell, Ohio, home. For more information, please contact him at: pastorwaters@stjohnlutheran.com.



The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness serves as co-chair for the Renewal Team and as the Associate Pastor at St. John's in Grove City, Ohio. He loves stories and finding ways to use ordinary, everyday life to point to our amazing God. He strives to see with eyes of faith. He fails consistently. Through it all, God remains faithful and full of grace. Scott has also been a missionary teacher in Denmark and Ethiopia through the NALC's Theologians without Borders and he currently co-chairs the Renewal team for the NALC. When Pastor Scott isn't running around the church he is often found at home with his wife, Deanna and their six children. For more information, please contact him at: sness@stjohnsgc.org.

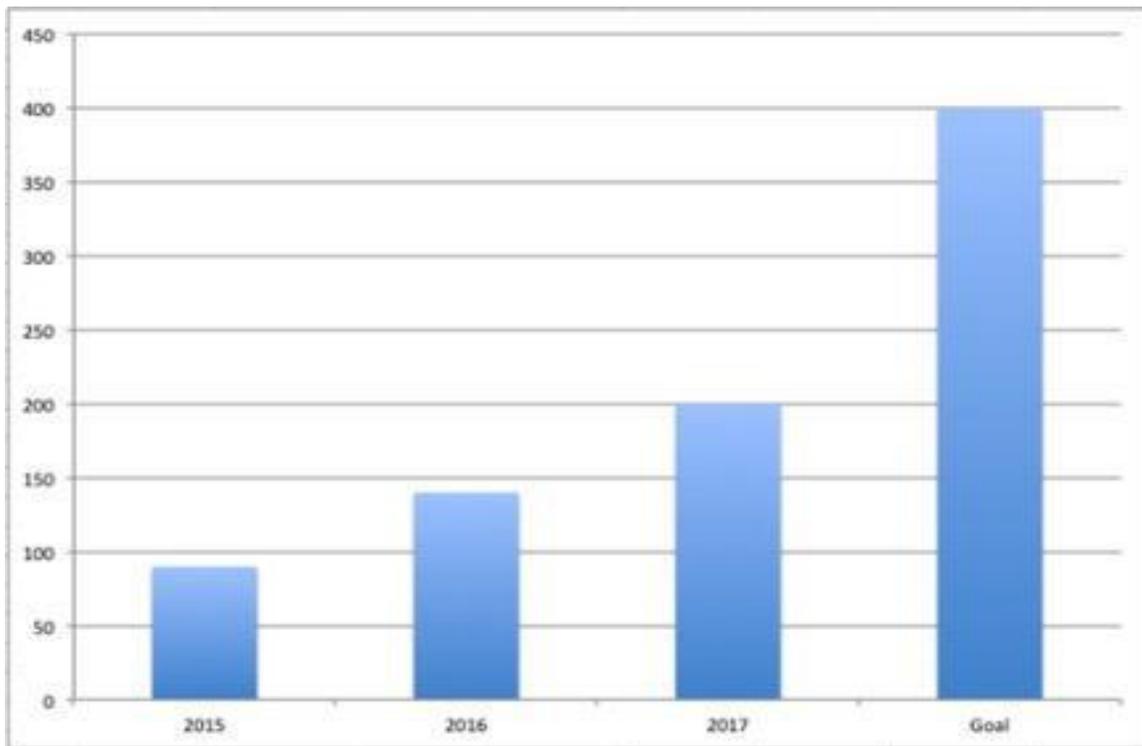


Pastor Patti Morlock serves as a co-chair for the Renewal Team, and has just completed a long-term interim at St. John Lutheran Church in Greenville, Ohio. She enjoys the challenge of bringing calm to chaos, clarity to confusion, and using the Word of God as THE touchstone along the way. She relies on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, daily time in the Word, and the support of her family and friends when the challenges of time away and travel threaten to interrupt God's peace. She has co-pastored with her husband, Jeff, both in a traditional setting for 14 years and in a mission setting for two years. Currently, being a clergy couple in two different settings is not without its challenges, but gardening together and praying together keeps them grounded. When Pastor Patti isn't traveling across the state, she is spending time with her husband and their two daughters. For more information, please contact her at: pbjandh@sbcglobal.net

Great Commission Society Update

Members: Rod Hackman (chair), Rachel Sosebee (chair), Lynn Kickingbird, Frezil Westerlund, Judy Bangsund, Elaine Hackman, Mark Werner, Eddy Perez, Doug Gast, Paul Larson

Primary Goal: The NALC vision calls for every congregation, small or large, to have an active, intentional relationship supporting a local community ministry, one of the NALC mission congregations in North America, and one global mission.



In joint work and projects with the Renewal Team, we see that approximately 25% of NALC congregations are living into this vision. The two main connection points presented through GCS are: 1) Financial – GCS membership funds cover grant money that is used for startup funds, emergency aid, and missionaries; and 2) helping people form active relationships with a local, a domestic, and a global mission.

Specific Goals: Each meeting has a list of updated/target goals that are adjusted. To date, every Mission District has been contacted, key congregations identified that are living into this vision that can serve as local ambassadors, and new resources are being identified weekly at the request of congregations. This team is currently at year two of a five-year plan. Throughout 2016, the GCS team has identified that DMTs (and mission networks) are the most strategic way to meet this long term vision. To that end, an intentional emphasis has been placed in this area.

Mission needs strategic mission networks. GCS' primary goal for 2016 has been to assist each Mission District in forming its own DMT (or mission network). Each Mission District is unique and so, too, will be the shape and function of their mission networks. The ways to encourage your Mission District and its congregations to be mission driven are as varied as the Mission Districts across the NALC. Each Mission District needs to evaluate its culture, its strengths and weaknesses, its structures, and its needs before designing a mission network approach that fits. But it is important to note that each approach is united in building a mission driven culture.

Three C's of a mission network

- **Commitment** to prayer in all needs, but specifically in the area of missions
- **Connect** people and congregations to resources and tools for missions
- **Cultivate** the soil for mission planting through communicating news of mission efforts and stories, and helping coordinate mission events to excite and engage.

Each Mission District Dean received a personal invitation and request to send a representative to GCS' workshop that will be taking place over the lunch hour on Friday. It is imperative that we take this next step to continue the journey together to resource our Mission Districts and Congregations.

Renewal Team Update

Members: Patti Morlock (chair), Scott Ness (chair), Jody Becker, Tony Ede, Valerie Hobbs, Kevin Reynolds, Paul Borg, Ray Scheck (Mentor Upon Request).

Primary Goal: The goal of the Renewal Team is to resource, equip, and inspire lay people, pastors, and congregations for the sake of growing mature disciples who are formed in the image of Christ Jesus.

The Renewal Team works to develop and deliver resources that challenge and open the NALC to the work of the Holy Spirit in our ministry and mission. This centers on four key elements of our identity as Lutherans: The Word; The Water; the Wheat and the Wine; and our Witness. The Word of God is our source and norm. It directs us and is our most immediate access to knowing God's story and how we partner in His story. The storied waters of baptism are God's deliverance. Here we find our salvation and our identity. The wheat and wine of the table is God's ongoing celebration of our new relationship.

The Renewal Team is dedicated to reclaiming these four vital elements of our theology and leveraging them for the sake of our witness. Right teaching about each is, of course, vital to our understanding. But there is also a sense of enhancing and uncovering the wonder in each of these means of God's grace. What does it mean to be together in the Word of God as a community of faith? Personal engagement in the Word and faithful discussion with others is a catalyst for growth and renewal. We are committed to doing this together. Embracing a personal and corporate identity as the baptized people of God is the place of corporate confession and holy conviction. The judgement of God is fully ours and fully justified. Yet, the great exchange raises us out of our mire into His light. It is our identity — established in baptism — that allows us to boldly proclaim, "In Christ I can do all things."

The table is God's sustaining gift to us. It nourishes us. It renews us. It regenerates us. It forgives us. And it sends us. The Wheat and the Wine propels us out to "tell everyone what He has done... with shouts of thanksgiving." The witness of the church is formed and shaped by these means of grace. To receive the Word, Water, Wheat and Wine without stepping out into witness is an affront to the gift of God's mercy and grace. To witness to God's goodness to others apart from His means of grace is to rely on our own strength, to burn out, and to fail. They are held in tension and in unison. Renewing our collective work in living this out is the vision and hope of the Renewal Team.

Celebrating this past year:

- The Renewal Team continues to work to provide a leadership/coaching relationship with every pastor within the NALC.
- Launched "Mission Connect," a resource that tells success stories across our denomination of ways congregations have moved from membership to discipleship; celebrates the work of our global workers; highlights a mission congregation of the

NALC; and shares prayer requests and needs pertaining to a variety of mission endeavors.

- Continue to develop a wealth of video resources to make available for the NALC.
- Support the important work of the Life-to-Life Discipleship Task Force.
- Celebrated the terrific work of Dave Keener, who served as chair of this national team since day one and has now “retired” to a specific focus area of Life-to-Life discipleship.

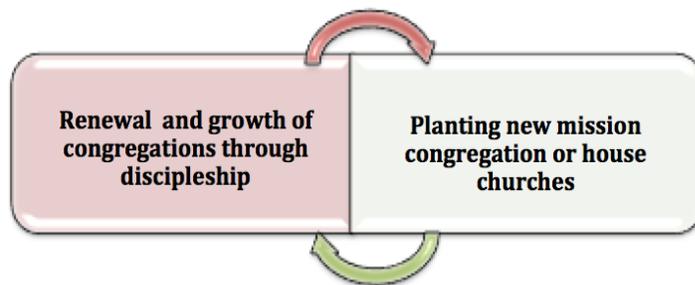
Looking ahead to goals for next year:

- Develop benchmarks of renewal and transformation of congregations and identify the fruits that show health, growth, and renewal.
- Develop and implement comprehensive strategy highlighting the four distinctives of Lutheranism: Word, Water, and Wheat (not that other denominations don’t embrace these, but the unique tension and emphasis that Lutherans place on these three).
- Scale adoption of the previously launched “Drops in Focus” lock screen image resource
- Enable GoodNews! as “Notes from the Road” to hear brief updates and teachings from NALC executive staff as they travel North America and the world.
- Continue to produce “Discipleship Moments” and unify these with the overall focus of Drops from the Well — that the Word from Sunday might inform all of the discipleship and renewal communications throughout the week/month.
- Continued utilization of Mission Connect.

New Starts Team Update

Members: Brad Hales (chair), Trina Petersen, Wendy Berthelsen, Fred Selging, Stéphane Kalonji, Tom Hilpert and Ron Voss (Mentors upon Request).

Primary Goal: Our church adopted a bold resolution of growing the number of NALC congregations to 1517 congregations by the year 2017. With the adoption of that vision, our mission office is working on critical tasks of inspiring, mobilizing, equipping and organizing congregation for this calling. In mission, having a clear picture of the vision before us is the first step. As a mission-driven church, we are called to take the following two missional actions:



Therefore, with renewed and transformed congregations whose main mission is making disciples, we are called to produce numerous new mission congregations and house churches. As a mission-driven church, we have made making disciples and congregational reproductions the two most important missional duties of our church. To that end, additional training will be provided in January of 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia, for all and any who are interested. One-day regional trainings will also be provided in conjunction with local Mission District work.

Specific Goals:

- Work together with GCS team to identify which congregations in the NALC data base should no longer be listed as a “mission start.” Also serve as a future resource in connecting phone calls made with GCS as need arises.
- Serve as the resource team to be directed to after initial contact is made in the Mission Office so as to walk alongside people in the process outlined as the pathway for mission starts.
- Serve as a resource to the Mission District deans as speakers, advocates and ambassadors as requested.
- Contact every mission start on a quarterly basis to correct contact information; provide connections; and assess perceived versus actual needs so resources can be provided. Please see summary listed here.

Mission Start Report

The Definition of “Mission Start” — Each phone call began with an open-ended question of whether a church sees itself as a “mission start.” Three factors of a mission start were voiced several times. If one of these was lacking, they were less sure about where they were in the life of their congregation:

- Continuing financial needs (voiced mostly by multi-national church plants) – most splinter churches are financially self-sufficient
- Solid nucleus that will not fall apart if they were to lose people (by death or otherwise)
- Longevity – has survived for a length of time and is still going well

Types of “New Starts” (varying needs depending on individual stories):

- Splinter (church split)
- Fallout congregation but not a church splitting
- House church plant
- Multi-national church plant
- Satellite of larger church (transplanting) – parish with multiple locations
- Church plant – around leader and/or common vision

Needs:

- Great awareness of “absence of youth” (culturally speaking and especially “fallout” new starts).
- Challenge of mission: most people not leaving previous congregations because of relationship connections.
- Because of the aforementioned, these congregations know the need to evangelize those unconnected with “church” but are not sure how.
- Healing – community in smaller towns where church split and/or healing of people
- Continual revitalization
- Power of the Holy Spirit
- Finances (multi-national ONLY) – as many people have lower wages

Training Needs:

- Personal evangelism/witness (beyond marketing and “attracting” people) — less needed in multi-national churches
- Church planting
- Holistic Gospel
- Relationship between discipleship, mission, evangelism, prayer, spiritual warfare, etc.

Strengths:

- Perseverance
- Creative, especially around the issues of meeting place, pastoral leadership, finances
- Desire to know Jesus, His word and prayer
- Works of compassion in the community
- Extremely generous with finances
- Gratefulness for Lord's provision
- Clear vision – especially true for multi-national church plants and struggling but seeking “fallout” church plants
- Centered on important things of the Gospel/kingdom – elimination of adiaphora
- Strong leadership, growing in spiritual maturity (especially splinter churches)

International Mission Team Update

Members: Eric Waters, Bob and Gay Hanson, Tom Curry, Jay Johnson, Herb Hafferman (Mentor Upon Request).

Goals:

- Work to encourage more full-time global workers and connect them through sending agencies such as World Mission Prayer League (WMPL), China Service Ventures (CSV), East European Mission Network (EEMN)
- Work to connect congregations with short-term missions through faithwebbing.com, Commission Expeditions, and ALWM
- Connect with NALC global workers on a monthly basis to:
 - Provide prayer support
 - Assist in connecting resources
 - Connect global workers with congregations during furlough/return tours
 - Share conversation, record stories and testimonies – then publish these in Mission Connect, newsletter and NALC Network
- Connect with David Wendel (Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenism) as requested as the Confessional Forum continues to develop
- Develop a plan for promoting Theologians Without Borders
 - Work with the Mission Office in establishing initial connections overseas
 - Assist in developing narrative testimonies that can be shared with Mission Connect
 - Work with theologians to assist them in maintaining connection after the short term work is done

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

Evergreen Family Friendship Service

World Mission Prayer League
Shanxi, China

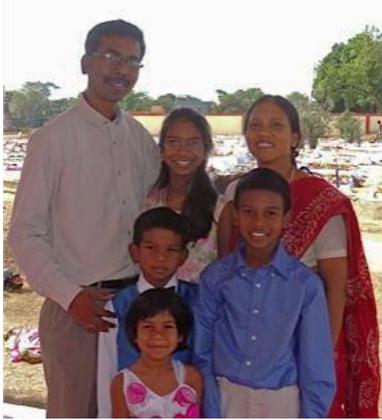


Pastor Charles and Anita Jackson

Joint Christian Services (JCS) International

World Mission Prayer League
Mongolia

sonrose@outlook.com



Pastors Neeraj and Nijhar Minz-Ekka

North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church /
Navin Doman Theological College

World Mission Prayer League
Ranchi, Jharkhand, India



Pastor Didi and Serafina Panzo
and daughters, Nicole and Sarah

Christian Community Development Network

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
World Mission Prayer League

dpanzo@wmpl.org



Pastor Matthew and Achol Riak
and son, Emmanuel

St. Luke's College
South Sudan

World Mission Prayer League

matthewriak@live.com

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.



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.



Gary Pecuch and his wife, Laurie, began a congregational youth and family consultation ministry named faithwebbing.com. Originating at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City, Ohio, approximately one year 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. It became apparent that many congregations have little or no access to professional youth ministry consultation. 21st century technologies now make it practical for the creation of a web-based youth ministry coaching service. 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.

Faith Stone Breakouts and Presenters

Develop Faith-Based Story Talk Skills

Leader: Valerie Hobbs

Location: Santa Barbara

One of the skills we want to impart to young and old alike is how to give faith talks. A faith talk is simply a talk given to a group of people for the purpose of sharing, affirming, and encouraging others in the faith. The ability to share God's story and how yours is connected to it is a powerful tool. Whether you are a beginner, are looking for pointers on how you could improve, or simply love hearing the story of what God is doing in and through his people, this faith stone is critical in life to life discipleship.



Valerie Hobbs serves on the staff of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Damascus, MD. Her job responsibilities include the support and encouragement of lay leaders of Redeemer's Bible Studies and Small Groups. Her passion is to see God's Word change lives as individuals learn to pray and to hear God speak through Scripture. She also works part time with Church Discipleship Ministries, a branch of The Navigators dedicated to helping church leadership live out their Disciple-making Mission.

Learn Intentional Relationship Building Skills

Leader: Gary and Laurie Pecuch

Location: Catalina C II

"Relationships are more important than anything else." Training our volunteers to understand that developing and maintaining a positive relationship with people based on mutual respect, is the prime directive. This method helps organize a conversation around familiar areas of discussion. Participants are trained to ask good questions that will build relationships. An effective faith stone to help with evangelism, hospitality, and relational ministry in life to life discipleship.



Gary and Laurie Pecuch began a congregational youth and family consultation ministry named faithwebbing.com. Originating at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City, Ohio, approximately one year 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.

Facilitate a Bible Study

Leader: Lynn Kickingbird

Location: Avalon 3

A faith skill every believer should possess is the ability to facilitate a Bible study. Being the facilitator does not mean you have all of the answers, but that you help ensure everyone gets the opportunity to participate. Are you an introvert who is passionate about Bible study and is looking for a tool to assist? Are you a pastor who has always struggled with this skill? Are you a new believer and this sounds exciting (or terrifying)? This faith stone will be a blessing and also allow you to admit that you don't know all the answers.



Lynn Kickingbird is a member of Peace Lutheran Church, Edmond, Oklahoma where she served for 13 years as volunteer coordinator of Adult Christian Education. Since 2011, she has served on a variety of NALC national mission teams and is active in the Great Commission Society whose chief purpose is to support Mission Districts in helping congregations become “Mission Driven.” Lynn has worked for over 40 years helping organizations and groups sharpen their vision and develop plans that help them move forward productively in an era of rapid change.

Recognizing God's Presence in the World

Leader: Pastor Scott Ness

Location: Catalina C III

It is important to help people recognize and trust God's voice and character. We speak about the broken world, how God redeems this brokenness, and how we are called to be His hands and feet in putting all of this back together. While this faith stone is critical for all people, it is especially important for those who are in “professional” ministry to help people learn how to recognize burning bush moments, stand on Holy Ground, and then know where God is calling them.



The Rev. Dr. Scott Ness serves as the Associate Pastor at St. John's in Grove City, Ohio. He loves stories and finding ways to use ordinary, everyday life to point to our amazing God. He strives to see with eyes of faith. He fails consistently. Through it all, God remains faithful and full of grace. Scott has also been a missionary teacher in Denmark and Ethiopia through the NALC's Theologians Without Borders and he currently co-chairs the Renewal team for the NALC. When Pastor Scott isn't running around the church he is often found at home with his wife, Deanna and their six children.

Spend Time with People the Way Jesus Did

Leader: Pastor Paul Borg

Location: Anacapa 1 and 2

American culture is characterized by the word “busy.” There is never enough time, burn out seems inevitable, and the challenge of developing deep relationships is real. What good things do we say “no” to so we can say “yes” to better things? In life-to-life discipleship, this is a key element. The real question is: “what are you going to do about it?” Jesus faced this challenge in even greater ways than we do. Spend time learning about this critical faith stone.



Pastor Paul Borg is the leader of the International Team and has served as a Lutheran pastor for 46 years, currently in Indianapolis, and as a part of Lutheran CORE and the NALC. Besides his degrees for ordained Lutheran ministry, he also has Master’s Degree in Christian Spiritual Formation and Leadership (discipleship) and a Doctorate in Evangelization for North America. He has been married to Judy for 48 years, has three children and 10½ grandchildren. In his free time, Pastor Paul consults for leaders in the US and globally about moving people to

be 1st century disciples in the 21st century.

Be Visionary

Leader: Bishop John Bradosky

Location: Catalina A I

Nehemiah, chapter 1, tells the story of a visionary. Nehemiah had been living in exile all of his life. He had never known anything but captivity. He began to hear that the Jews were starting to return to the Promised land, but the news coming back was not good. Nehemiah wanted so much to be a part of the restoration of Israel. Nehemiah got to work — for if he ever had a chance to return to Israel, he would be prepared. Not just a breakout time for pastors, but for all people as you learn to develop “go” thinking.



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.

Live Your Purpose and Live Your Job Description

Leader: Kevin Reynolds

Location: Avalon 2

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 it looks 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.” Use this powerful faith stone to help explore your everyday life and how the Gospel can permeate every area of it!



Kevin Reynolds has been serving as a Worship Leader at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Evans, Georgia since 2010, coming on staff as the Associate Minister of Missions, Outreach and Education in January of 2012. Prior to this Kevin was ensconced in a career in Medical Physics, but he and his wife, Stacy, have been worship leaders in several churches of various denominations for the past 35 years.

Developing a Meaningful Prayer Life

Leader: Trina M. Petersen

Location: Avalon 1

Prayer is such a vast subject. What we hope to do is give people tools and a format that will help make it easier for them to develop a spiritual discipline of having a meaningful prayer life. Prayer is a powerful tool and effective weapon that is critical in the life of discipleship. We see throughout Scripture that it was Jesus’ first “gut-reaction,” intentional and sustaining. If it was so critical for Jesus, it must be for us, as well.



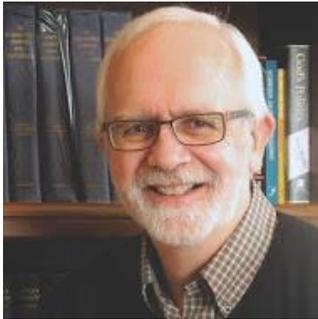
Trina M. Petersen is the founding pastor of A New Thing Christian Church, Lithonia, GA, a ministry entrusted to her by God, focused on the deliverance, healing and wholeness of His people. Pastor Trina was baptized as an infant, confirmed as a teenager and served as an adult in the Lutheran Church prior 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!

Do Acts 1:8 Service

Leader: Pastor Chuck Lindquist

Location: Catalina A II

When people have a basic understanding that we live in a broken world and that God has chosen to work through us to help piece this broken world back together, they want to make a difference. We need a concept that makes the idea of mission practical, achievable, and measurable. We find the framework in Acts 1:8 as we focus on Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. As a mission-driven church, we are told that through the power sent by the Spirit, we are blessed to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Mission is about relationship.



Pastor Chuck Lindquist and his wife, Cindy, have served within the fellowship of the World Mission Prayer League since 1976 — first in Ecuador, and since 1986 at our headquarters offices in Minneapolis. Since 1997, Chuck has served as Director of our missionary community. Cindy contributes at home, and in a variety of ways around our fellowship. Chuck and Cindy have three grown children, two children-in-law, and four positively spectacular grandchildren.

Develop a Supportive Faith Web

Leader: Gwynne Gonnerman

Location: California Grill

The vision is for the body of Christ to “wrap children and youth in a web of faith so loving and caring that they will know Christ and always want to be a part of a local congregation and its mission.” At the very core of youth and family ministry in the NALC, is faithwebbing (or intergenerational ministry). While the broader topic will continue to be talked about and discussed, this particular session will focus on what grandparents can do. If only one of five grandchildren will return to the faith they were raised in, we find ourselves at a critical juncture. Grandparents (both biological and adoptive) have a unique role to play in this discipleship process through faithwebbing!



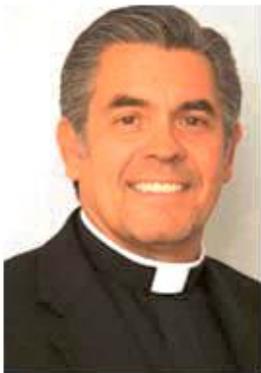
Gwynne Gonnerman delights in time spent with the precious people in her life. Gwynne became an advocate for herself and others and seeks safe, affirming community to release “ex”periences of abandonment and “re”lease a new life of abandon. She is honored to partner with others to share Jesus’ love, hope, and encouragement to needy children, women, families, and communities through her job as the Executive Director of an international non-profit that operates in India, as well as a national presenter on a variety of topics, including grand-parenting as a means of discipleship.

Know What You Believe

Leader: Pastor David Wendel

Location: Catalina A III

A creed is a belief statement. The Apostles' Creed is a corporate belief statement that we recite regularly because it contains the foundational beliefs of our faith. It forms us. It provides common ground. It holds us together. There are threats that try and change a person's belief system or, in the brokenness of life, cause doubt in their minds. Having a personal "I Believe" statement based in Biblical truth is an incredibly important asset. It can combat lies, doubt, and fear with confidence, trust, and hope!



Pastor David Wendel graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication. He is a 1981 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. In 30 years of parish ministry, Pastor Wendel gained valuable hands-on experience serving as pastor to two congregations that had suffered under unhealthy relationships, lack of vision and impaired mission and ministry. He now works with many congregations in the NALC assisting with visioning, healing and renewal, especially focusing on pastor/parish relationships. Pastor Wendel and his wife, Susan Riches, have two adult children, and four grandchildren.

Know the Stories of God's People

Leader: Pastor Gemechis Buba

Location: Catalina C I

Having a working knowledge of the Word of God is of paramount importance. In Ephesians 6, we are instructed to put on and wear the full armor of God. Of the different parts of the armor of God, five are defensive in nature. They protect us, helping us stand our ground. As Jesus clearly demonstrated, only one piece of the armor is an offensive weapon: "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Not knowing the Word of God is like a soldier being in a war without a weapon. Having a strong biblical foundation and an understanding of the basic framework of the Word of God is a Faith Stone that will reap huge benefits throughout your entire life.



Pastor 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.

Know Your Ministry Plan

Leader: Wendy Berthelsen

Location: Anacapa Lobby

In Acts 16, Paul speaks of a woman named Lydia. She is a dealer of purple cloth, a worshiper of God, a willing servant who opened up her house for use by the church, and had her entire household baptized into the faith. Her faith permeated every aspect of her life. Most believers do not think in terms of identifying a personal ministry plan. We tend to think in terms of becoming involved in a ministry, not having a ministry. While the Faith Stone “Live Your Purpose and Live Your Job Description” focuses on the general concepts, helping people to think broadly about the idea for the first time, this faith stone is an extension and next-step for those wanting to dive in deeper.



Pastor Wendy Berthelsen has partnered together with her husband, Joel, both in ministry and at home for many years now. Having complementary gifts, they have a passion for each person in the church to know and live out their call from God: the call to know, follow and serve Jesus. They believe that each person is unique and God desires to custom design His church around people. Wendy and Joel believe that God’s call has to do with all of life, one’s work, family, community and world. They are graced and honored to be the parents of four wonderful children, Amara, Stefan, Philip and Ana. Wendy graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and Luther Seminary as well (Master of Divinity). Most of Wendy’s time as a

pastor is devoted to Call, Inc., a non-profit teaching mission of Hope Lutheran Church where she serves in Cedar Hill, Texas.

Session 1 Information, Table Talk and Notes

Session 1: Faith is Made Whole in Community – The Biblical Basis

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba

Speaker Notes:

Table Talk: Building Your Spiritual House – A Community Effort

A. Takeaways from Dr. Buba’s Message (10 minutes)

1. Individually, look back at your notes from the keynote address based on Mark 2:12 by Dr. Buba. In the space provided below, individually and silently write your answers to the question, “What is God saying to YOU? (3 min.)

2. Go around the table and share ideas (without duplicating them) and write some of them in the space below. (4 minutes)

3. Which ideas do you think are most important to share with your home congregation and ministry teams? Discuss. (3 minutes)

B. The Construction Process. (10 Minutes)

The house of the Lord is used to reference not only a structure built by man but also the men who build it. The house of the Lord is built out of more than stones and dirt and clay; it is also built of flesh and bones and blood. Regardless of the building materials, the foundation of our house is the same: Christ. One stone does not make a building; the stones have to be joined together. In

community, we use the mortar of daily scripture reading, continual prayer, and worship to bind us together as the living house of the Lord and to keep us Christ centered. With Christ as our head we can't help but respond by being mission driven and taking the Good News to our neighbors both near and far. What does a Christ-centered and mission-driven "building" look like?

Read the scriptures passages below and then discuss the questions that follow.

- **Isaiah 28:16-17 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'* ¹⁷ *And I will make justice the line and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.*
- **Ephesians 2:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...*
- **1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (ESV)** ¹⁰ *According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*
- **Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷ *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*
- **1 Peter 2:4-5 (ESV)** ⁴ *As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
- **1 Chronicles 16:11 (ESV)** ¹¹ *Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!*

3. **Building Upon.** Which ones are there but need polishing? *Star them and place them on the Blueprint Graphic (page 32).*
4. **Building Up.** Which two to three do you think you need to begin being set in place? *Check them and place them on the Blueprint Graphic.*
5. **Potential Roadblocks.** Even though we may want to be “Christ centered” and “mission driven” often we are held back by “institutional” challenges or roadblocks. Check off what you think are the strongest institutional values or practices *holding back* such change in your congregation. *List them here.*

6. **Rock Pile.** Compare your answer with others at your table and then together agree on the three to four strongest factors hampering your faith community/Spiritual House from becoming more Christ centered and mission driven. *List them here, commit them to prayer and consider them for the Rock Pile for discard.*

Table of Contrasts

Identity Shapes Us: Institutionalism vs. Kingdom of God

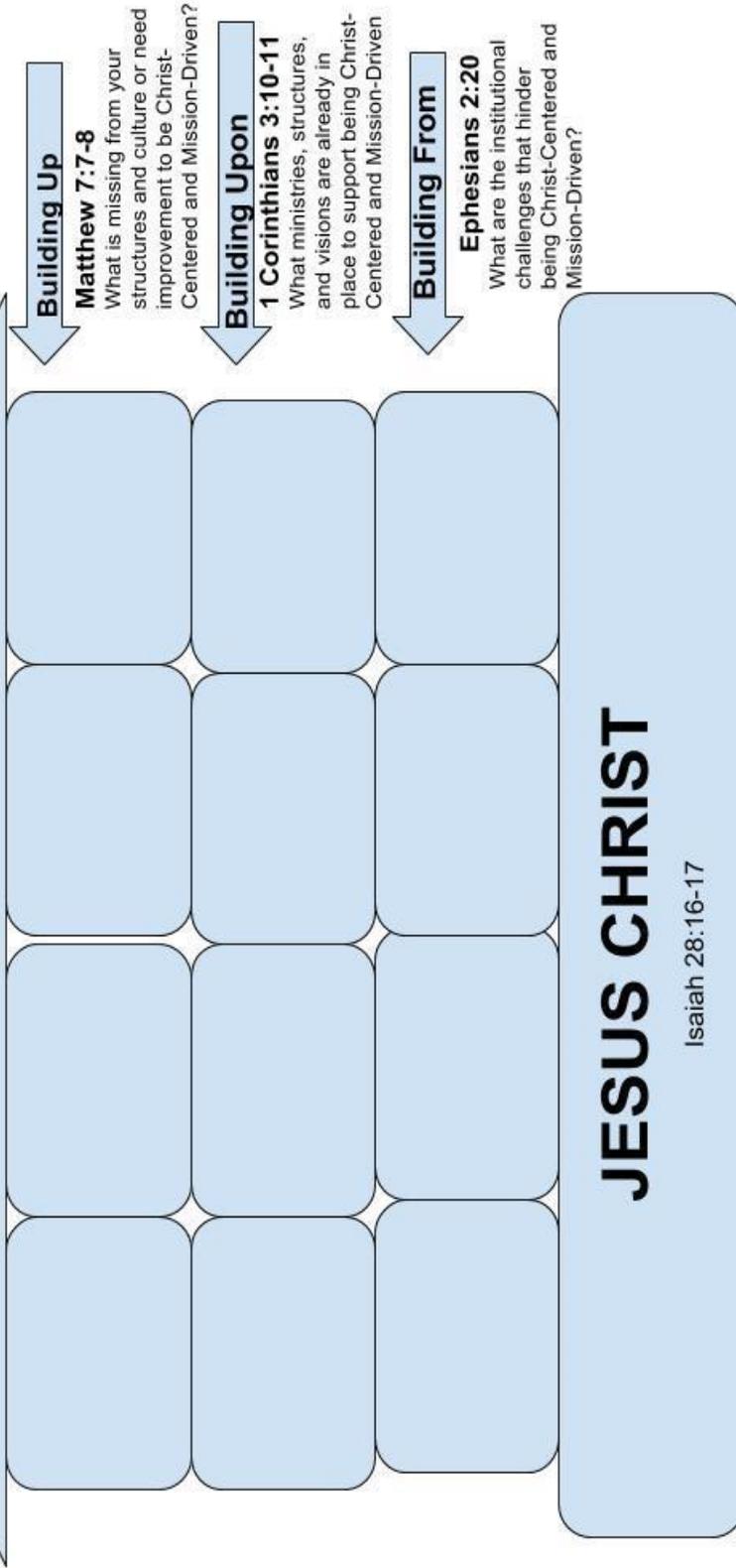
	Institutionalism	Kingdom of God
“Church”	Church is a “what”: organization, institution, building, place	Church is a “who”: <i>ekklesia</i> , Called-out Ones, Family of God, Holy Family, Royal Priesthood
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and grow a membership organization; members are consumers of activities and services • “How many do you worship?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Christ-centered disciples whose mission is to take the Gospel into the world to love, witness and serve • “Who do you worship?” — the Living God
Measure of Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth: new members, increasing attendance, buildings, size of cash reserve • Grow bigger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual growth, Fruit of the Spirit, number of baptisms (new Christians), sharing the Gospel with those outside the community • Prepared leaders who plant mission posts and congregations
Guidance	Books, programs, methodologies, “what other local churches are doing,” best modern business practices	God’s Word, prayer, Holy Spirit, missional vision, Trust in the Living God
Missionaries, Priests and Ministers	Those who receive wages or financial support for this role	All “members of the Body” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Missionaries</i> (from Latin: those “sent”) • <i>Priest</i> (from Latin: “bridge builder; I Peter 2:5) • <i>Minister</i> (from Latin: “servants”)
Congregation’s Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend weekly services • Social gatherings • Community service and “being nice” • Offering activities and services to members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship: Word and Sacrament • Community: healing, encouragement and accountability • Training, mobilizing and transforming ordinary people for Kingdom purposes
Pastor’s Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run a successful organization • Lead weekly services • Meet members’ needs • Employee of congregation • Omni-competency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word and Sacrament ministry • Lead using one’s unique spiritual gifts • Ensures mission of Jesus happens among the gathering of believers • Identifies gifts and leaders and prepares individual to live out their vocational call and personal ministry • Mobilizes the congregation for mission in the world • Covenant relationship with congregation

“Out”reach, Mission and Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Attract” more people “in” • Offer the right services and activities • Employ people who can perform and produce more people/members • Marketing, websites, social media • Wait for people to come and welcome • Get people “involved” 	<i>Mission</i> (Latin: Sent “Out”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness to and share Gospel with those who don’t know Jesus • Expectation of miraculous from God • Send/support foreign missionaries • Plant new churches • Bring Good News where there is bad news • Bring healing
Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using time, talent and treasure for the church organization (“within”) • Raising funds to meet church budget needs • Tithe: a practice to get people to give more to church • Filling “slots for church tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus’ followers wisely manage their resources and spend according to God’s call • Tithe: giving one’s first and best 10% in thanksgiving to God for what he has done and continues to do • Faith-based budgeting for Kingdom needs
Other Congregations	Seen as competition for members	Partners in the Kingdom

“Blueprint”

Shoring up your Christ-Centered foundation to direct your Mission-Driven response.

+
1 Chronicles:16:11
Prayers



D. Follow-up Activity: Shoring Up *(To be done in Home Congregation)*

This activity draws on the work begun during the Table Talk session during day one of the NALC 2016 Mission Festival/Convocation. It may be used as a part of a visioning process by ministry teams with their specific focus or by the congregation as a whole. It is concerned with **shoring up your Christ-centered foundation to direct your mission-driven response.**

Background

When you begin a building project, whether starting from scratch or renovating, the process is the same. First, you need to take stock of your environment and *what you already have* (for good and not-so-good). Then your team or congregation needs to be on a firm footing about *your shared purpose*. Next, you need to explore ideas and information about *your possible future* (how your building will be used). Finally, you agree on a *Vision*, a kind of blueprint, for what the final product will be, along with action steps, assignments for the construction team, and tools and supply lists that can help build and equip the team throughout the process and beyond. If everyone is not on the “same page” of the blueprint at the right time it is very likely that the building project will not be stable or long-lasting. The whole process needs to be grounded in Scripture and bathed in prayer.

As your congregation prepares the blueprint of your building/renovation project, some questions to be answered include:

- What does it look like to be Christ centered and mission driven?
- How will that vision direct our decisions?
- What ministries do we say “yes” or “no” to when living out that vision?
- What does worship look like in a Christ-centered and mission-driven community?
- How will we train to be Christ centered and mission driven?

Overview Directions for “Shoring Up” Process

Specific directions and materials are posted at **www.thenalc.org/mission-documents**. Download these as you prepare for your building/renovation process. They will lead both the process leadership team and the participants through much of the process. The following are preparation steps.

Leadership Team. Assemble a team. Consider those who attended the Convocation. In addition, include any of your clergy, staff and lay ministry leaders with experience leading groups and planning teams. Members of the NALC’s Great Mission Society team are also available as a resource for reimbursement of travel costs.

Schedule. The process is best accomplished over a series of sessions totaling 4-8 hours (no session under 1.5 hours long). It can be done in an all-day retreat, or two Saturday mornings. The point is that you take the time to allow for stories to be shared, deep discussion to take place, and shared vision to be cast.

Materials and Resources. As you prepare, review the materials/resources available on the Mission Connection Resource List. You will also need flip charts (to be hung on wall as they are created), markers, Bibles, enough tables for groups of 5-8, depending on number of people invited. Be sure to include copies of the steps below for everyone present, as well as the blueprint graphic: *Shoring Up your Christ-centered foundation to direct your Mission-driven response.*

Mission Connection Resource List

Most resources can be found under the “Mission Resources” link on the bottom of the “Missions” page of the NALC website (<http://thenalc.org/missions/>)

- 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/north-american-missions/>
 - Global — <http://thenalc.org/global-missions/>
 - NALC Missionaries — <http://thenalc.org/global-workers/>
 - Applying to be a mission partner — <http://thenalc.org/gcs-partner-app/>

- 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>

Panel: What to Do When Mission Gets Messy

Q & A on Best Practices

Moderated by:
Panel:

Notes:

Key action item from Panel Q & A

(transfer to “Action Steps,” page 53)

Mission District Meetings

Wednesday, August 10th

Agenda-

Opening	10 minutes
Planning Exercise	65 minutes
Business Meeting	25 minutes (optional)

Closing Prayer

Preparation

Bring your convocation booklets with you. Ideally decide on who (Dean and/or leader(s)) will lead session. Leader(s) make sure there are flipchart sheets (at least 5) and markers in the room. *Materials: Four pieces of self-sticking chart paper placed on wall and a couple of markers; participant's booklets for reference to completed afternoon exercise. Write the following titles on top of each chart paper: **Building From, Building Upon, Building Up, Rock Pile, Working Together.***

Opening – 10 minutes

1. **Welcome** by Dean/leaders.

Opening Prayer

Goals of Session

- For the congregations and the MD Dean and council to identify building blocks (opportunities and assets) and challenges of congregations within the MD in becoming more Christ- centered and mission- driven.
- Explore ways MD congregations can support each other and work together and areas where they may need external support.
- Get a little business done
- Review agenda and time constraints.

Introductions

- Go around the room and have people **quickly** introduce themselves by stating their name, their congregation's name and location.

Planning Exercise — 65 minutes

1. Appoint a leader/facilitator, time keeper and note-taker. Have people open to the Blueprint Graphic in their Convocation Booklets (or Section C of Table Talk)
2. Sharing from *Shoring Up* Exercise from afternoon – 40 minutes (ten minutes per area)
 - a. **Building From.** Use first chart paper, entitled “**Building From.**” One person from each congregation present will share *one* item from the *Building From* level of the *Blueprint*. This will be written on a flip chart and the leader will ask how many other congregations had the same item by a show of hands.
 - b. The recorder will count and place that number next to the item. Move on to the next congregation. Note: given the time constraints, not all congregations may be able to contribute for each building area.
 - c. Follow the same process for *Building Upon* and *Building Up*, starting with congregations that may not have contributed yet. If you run out of time, skip the discard *Rock Pile*.
 - d. **Working Together**—10 minutes.
 - Explore ways congregations and the Mission District can foster working relationships in the process of becoming more Christ centered and mission driven.
 - Have people individually and quietly jot down some ideas.
 - Going around the room have people call out ideas while not duplicating others that have been shared already.
 - Possible next steps: Identify two to three follow-up activities including how to form, organize and/or renew your mission team.

Business Meeting – 25 minutes

This portion of the Mission District Meeting may be used for any other “business” the Mission District needs to attend to as determined prior to the meeting by the Mission District Dean or leader. Please also consider dedicating this time to the formation of your Mission District Team — if not already formed — or discussing the activities of your Mission District Mission Team. (Please see below.)

Organizing a District Mission Team

The NALC is a Christ-centered church. Jesus reminds us at his ascension that he is with us always, even to the end of the age. We are a mission-driven church. Mission cannot be done in isolation. It is about relationship and building strategic mission networks. We are traditionally grounded, which binds us to our brothers and sisters in history and today around the world. We are congregationally focused and organized to make strong mission centers to locally serve. All this is done in community. The work is strengthened by a dedicated mission team. The harvest is plenty but the workers are few. We cannot do this alone.

Mission needs strategic mission networks. Each Mission District and congregation is unique and so too will be the shape and function of their mission networks. But, they will be united in building a mission driven culture and will:

- **Commit** to prayer in all need, but specifically in the area of missions
- **Connect** people and congregations to resources and tools for mission
- **Cultivate** the soil for mission planting through tools like communicating news of mission efforts and stories, and helping coordinate mission events to excite and engage.

Creating A Mission District Mission Network

What is the purpose for creating a District Mission Team?

(circle all that apply)

1. To get the missions office off my back and check that box at my next Deans’ meeting.
2. To gather passionate mission leaders to train and engage the congregations and individuals in our Mission District and promote being in relationship with a local mission, and NALC mission congregation, and a global mission.
3. To lay the groundwork for planting missions in our mission district.
4. To create support networks for our mission congregations.
5. To help connect congregations with missions regionally and globally.
6. To pray for the mission work of our district.
7. To establish communication networks to promote and engage missions.

What will the team look like?

(see “How Do We Organize Our Mission Network?”)

1. District Mission Team (regular meetings, 5-7 people), covering multiple areas of interest.
2. Mission Central (no official meetings, 1-2 people), communicates mission opportunities and needs and prays for missions.
3. Mission All (no team, every congregation/leader participates), picks one area and works on the purpose as an entire mission district.

Support needed for the team?

Who comes to mind?

Timeline for contacting and releasing the ministry.

Organizing a Congregational Mission Team

What Mission Team(s) already exist?

What is the purpose of creating a Mission Team?

(circle all that apply)

1. Pastor said to (because the Mission Office or Dean said to).
2. To cultivate a culture in the congregation excited to engage in mission locally, regionally, and globally.
3. To manage our “mission” ministries.
4. To find, support, and release people to be in mission at the church, through the church, and on their own.
5. To pray for our mission partners.
6. To communicate about and grow the relationship with our mission partners.
7. To organize support for our mission partners.
8. To find a local, NALC, and global mission partner.

What gifts and abilities are needed to accomplish the purposes chosen?

Who has those gifts and abilities?

What should the team look like?

1. Five- to seven-member team to be the vision-casters, training/event planners, and communicators for all things mission
2. One to two people take on one purpose at a time
3. Multiple 1-2 person teams

What is the timeline for asking people and creating the team(s)?

What does the team need to do its work?

Closing Prayer

Session 2 Information, Table Talk and Notes

Session 2: Faith Is Made Whole in Community – Faith Webbing

Presenter: Mr. Gary Pecuch

Speaker Notes:

Table Talk: Faith Is Made Whole in Community – Faith Webbing

Presenter: Mr. Gary Pecuch

Table Discussions:

1. Name someone to whom you are intentionally passing on the faith and how you go about making that happen.

2. Name someone who was instrumental in your own faith development when you were growing up. What quality did you appreciate in that person and/or what made their faith attractive?

3. Talk about an intergenerational event that takes place in your congregation and/or an idea that you have to help make an event become more intergenerational in your congregation.

Key action item from Session 2

(transfer to Action Steps, page 53)

Session 3 Information, Table Talk and Notes

Session 3: Faith Is Made Whole in Community – Outcome-Based Youth Ministry

Presenter: Mr. Gary Pecuch

Speaker Notes:

Key action item from Session 3:

(transfer to “Action Steps,” page 53)

Faith Stone Breakout Training Notes

Presenter:

Notes:

Key action item from Faith Stone Breakout Training:

(transfer to “Action Steps,” page 53)

Appendices

NALC Upcoming Events 2017

Plant, Grow and Bloom: It's Not an Option

Church Planting Conference

January 4-6, 2017

Atlanta, Georgia

For more information, contact jbrockman@thenalc.org

NALC Pastors' Conference

Featuring Pastor Jim Nestingen

Orlando, Florida

Beginning at 8:30 AM on February 14

Concluding at Noon on February 16th

For more information, contact bseifert@thenalc.org

Convocation and Mission Festival

August 2017

TBA



Mission Office Training Webinars

September - December 2016

Overall Theme of Webinars: The Church: Kingdom of God vs. Institutionalism

Webinar Objectives:

- Inspire deeper passion for Jesus: deeper hunger for His Word, prayer and power of the Holy Spirit
- Desire: Jesus would transform and renew people's lives and increase people's desire to be disciples of Jesus
- Create people with a passion for Jesus' mission. Increase understanding of mission according to Bible.
- Contrast "Kingdom of God vs. Institutionalism" values and dynamics in the church
- Birth Holy Spirit-inspired new vision for mission.

September:

Week 1: Renewing the Church Through Senior Ministry – Pastor Brad Hales (evening)

Week 2: Necessity of the Holy Spirit: Scriptural Teaching and Training, Part 1 (daytime)

Week 3: Youth and Family Ministry – Faithwebbing.com (daytime)

Week 4: Necessity of the Holy Spirit: Scriptural Teaching and Training, Part 2: Panel (evening)

October:

Week 1: Renewing the Church Through Senior Ministry – Pastor Brad Hales (evening)

Week 2: Prayer: Scriptural Teaching and Training (daytime)

Week 3: Youth and Family Ministry – Faithwebbing.com (daytime)

Week 4: Prayer and Renewal/Revival (evening)

November:

Week 1: Renewing the Church Through Senior Ministry – Pastor Brad Hales (evening)

Week 2: Discipleship: Scriptural Teaching and Training (daytime)

Week 3: Youth and Family Ministry – Faithwebbing.com (daytime)

Week 4: Discipleship: Where the Rubber Meets the Road – Panel Discussion (evening)

December:

Week 1: Why Church Planting? (evening)

Additional Resources Available

- **Discipleship Moment Videos** – This weekly video blog provides short reflection on what the word “discipleship” really means, the vision for the NALC, and what it means to be “mission driven” are just a few of the many topics. To connect, please visit <http://nalcnetwork.com/good-news/goodnews-media>
- **Mission Connect, Drops from the Well and Drops in Focus** — We are evaluating the texting of these stories of congregational renewal and scriptural verses with the goal of a wider and more efficient distribution across the NALC. Those who have been receiving these texts are asked to respond to forthcoming requests for information and preference for receiving these messages going forward. Those who have not been receiving them will also be asked for feedback and interest in participation.
- **GOODNEWS!** – This weekly staff blog from the Mission Office shares the 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. To connect, please visit <http://nalcnetwork.com/good-news>
- **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/mission-resources/>

Mission Light vs. Mission Deep

Congregations may want to develop guidelines when evaluating mission ministries for funding and active ministry. Here are some that may be useful. Not all of them may be appropriate for your particular culture and context.

Light Connection

Deep Connection

Send a check get a letter/newsletter

Have a relationship

Pray *for*

Pray *with*

Around the world

Around the world, within our state, in our town

Do good *to*

Do good *with*

Silently serve (with a t-shirt)

Serve and share why and in whose name

Once and done

Return and build from (relationship building)

Only for adults

All called and gifted

Only for those that go

Opportunities for all locations and skills/gifts

Only volunteer for those that can

All are ministers and missionaries

Evangelism = marketing

Way of life (response to discipleship)

For a committee to do and decide upon

Corporate, team, and individual called to mission and mission support

Broad scatter (the more the better)

Focused, intense, intentional relationships

Out of what we *should* do

What we are called and gifted to do

What *we* do

Look to join what *God* is doing

Done by the church

Done by each individual, as teams, as church

Support because of the institutional ties

Support groups out of personal connections and shared vision/purpose

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	“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	“I go to church.” Church is a “what.”	“I am the church 24/7.” “We are the church 24/7.” Church is a “who.”
Goal	Maintain and Grow Organization	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	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	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?
Method and Definition of “Out” reach, Mission and Evangelism	Do something to “attract” more people “in” <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” Conclusion: Get more members	Mission (Latin: Sent “Out”) 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	Sometimes: allergy to “J” word (Jesus)	Jesus: “Only name by which we can be saved.” Still ALIVE and ACTIVE because of Resurrection
Source of Power and Guidance?	Books, programs or methodologies, especially the latest or trendy Copycat Church Human excitement, enthusiasm and energy	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	Offering education and spiritual growth options Sunday School At “church” Including children and youth options	DISCIPLE: Being transformed and trained as apprentice of Jesus <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
Member	Name on a list to be tallied Consumer of the Church’s activities and services Pew-sitters	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	ALL Followers of Jesus are Missionaries, Priests and Ministers 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	Weekly Worship Services Social Gatherings Philanthropy: Community Service Being Nice to Others Offering activities and services to members	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	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	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
Structure	“Like it was done in the past” Filling slots and getting people involved Committees (or equivalent) Whatever is trendy	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	Most Capable: Those with worldly success Oftentimes business people Top-Down Control	Servant Leadership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating: Making Others Successful (Bottom-up) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Capable: Mature in Christ (any career) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered by Holy Spirit • “According to Scriptures”: God’s Word, ways and voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership, Spiritual Gifts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproducing Oneself
Pastor’s Role	Lead and run a successful organization Preach and lead weekly services Meet members’ needs Omni-competency Employee of congregation	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	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	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
Other Congregations	Competition	Partners in the Kingdom
Faith and Belief	Religion: Moral Therapeutic Deism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God wants people to be good. • The goal of life is to be happy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God solves our problems. • Good people go to heaven. • God creates and watches over human life on earth. 	Active relationship of trust in the Living God who is revealed in the Holy Scriptures, as summarized in the historic creeds
Congregation Size	Bigger is better	“Where two or three are gathered...” Matthew 18:20 Size of a congregation/gathering is irrelevant.
Enemy	Those who stand up for the truth: God’s Word Those who expose “institutionalism”	Sin, Evil, Death and the Devil Devil, Flesh and World Spiritual warfare is REAL. Devil is the one who “steals, kills and destroys” through temptation, opposition and possession. ALL are capable of participating in the devil’s work.

Action Steps

Session	Key Takeaways	Action Items/Next Steps
Session 1 - Gemechis Buba		
Panel Q & A		
Session 2 -Gary Pecuch		
Session 3 -Gary Pecuch		
Breakout Session		

Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Congregation/Mission District:

Notes