

Nominating Committee Report

The 2017 Nominating Committee presents the candidates named below for positions to be elected at the NALC Convocation Aug. 9-11 in Nashville, Tenn.

We believe the individuals named below are qualified and would do well in their service to the NALC if elected.

Additional nominations may be made, providing they meet the requirements set forth in the NALC Constitution (Articles 10.03, 15.01), which specify 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.”*

The deadline for submitting additional nominations is June 19, 2017.

The Committee is grateful for the opportunity to have served the NALC, and we commend these well-qualified individuals to the Convocation for your consideration. We pray that God will guide the election process so that those who will best serve us will be raised up.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Cathi Braasch
Pastor Donald Brandt
Ms. Shelly Ree
Pastor Bert Schultz, Co-Chair
Mr. Marc Voigt, Co-Chair

Executive Council - Lay (4-year term)

(One person to be elected)

- + Rebecka V. Andrae - Greensburg, Pa.
- + Pamela Charas - Dayton, Ohio
- + Brian E. Sutton - Statesville, N.C.

Executive Council - Clergy (4-year term)

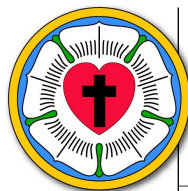
(One person to be elected)

- + Pastor Mark Braaten - Tyler, Texas
- + Pastor Roy A. Harrisville III - Menomonie, Wis.
- + Pastor Ralph W. Reitmeyer - Llano, Texas

Court of Adjudication (4-year term)

(Two persons to be elected)

- + Pastor Jeffray S. Greene - Brooks, Ga.
- + Lyle Hollander - Boyden, Iowa



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

Rebecka Andrae

Nominee for Executive Council - Lay

Name:

Rebecka V. Andrae

Address:

Greensburg, Pa.

Congregation:

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Latrobe, Pa.

Occupation:

Mid-Northeast Mission District
Administrative Assistant.
On leave from social work.



Basic Biographical Information:

I am single with three children: Adam (23), a third-year law student at Ohio Northern University; Maria (13), entering eighth grade this fall; and Sara (12), entering seventh grade this fall.

I earned my Bachelor's degree in Family Studies (two minors: Early Childhood Administration/ Education and Business Management) from Seton Hill University and have completed graduate work within the fields of education, leadership/ administration, and Lutheran Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, St. Vincent College, Concordia University, and the North American Lutheran Seminary.

I am an avid soccer (the world's football) fan and particularly enjoy following the national team of my native Sweden. I enjoy cooking, reading, and outdoor activities with my children.

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

My experiences and involvement in both local and regional expressions are varied and extensive including (but not limited to) chairing various committees (Membership, Christian Education, 50th Anniversary Committee), teaching Sunday School, serving on Congregation Council (including one Vision Team), serving as voting member to synod

assembly (1994, 1998, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010), serving on the West Penn Lutheran CORE Fellowship Steering Committee, serving as Parish Secretary (paid position), attending the constituting Convocation for the NALC and signing the charter (2010), attending subsequent NALC Convocations (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015), and working as the Administrative Assistant for the Mid-Northeast Mission District (paid position) since 2014.

In addition, I spent my early life as a member of the Church of Sweden where my father, a pastor, was actively involved in various confessional movements. I have been a member of congregations in various settings such as a rural church in a potato-farming community in northern Maine and small-city churches in Sweden and Pennsylvania. All these experiences have combined to provide me with a global perspective that is balanced with the opportunities and challenges of small-town ministry.

(While my experience in the non-profit, social agency world is not experience within the Body of Christ, it has been relevant to honing my visionary and long-range planning skills along with short-term action plans which have been very beneficial to me over the years while serving on various congregation councils and committees.)

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

Through prayerful discernment over many years, I believe that I have been granted the gifts of administration and wisdom to be used to build up the Body of Christ.

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

The NALC appears to face several challenges. As we reach critical mass in several areas, we must address and solve these challenges in a thoughtful, deliberate, and intentional way while not losing the inherent momentum.

One challenge I see is in the structure of the NALC itself. We are committed to a lean structure yet there are multiple demands within that structure

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and requests from congregations, pastors, and individual laity. We saw this materialize over the past several years in the areas of communication and family/youth ministry. The NALC leadership was able to thoughtfully respond to this challenge and to do so in a timely manner.

The key is to always view challenges as opportunities and to evaluate each challenge in the light of the mission of the NALC. In other words, we want to address challenges in a visionary manner that ultimately makes sense and makes good use of our resources.

One challenge that is rising from the grassroots level is that of the annual Convocation. Timing (annually) and location (varies) have been questioned by some due to the cost of travel. I, however, view the annual Convocation as an opportunity to come together as disciples of Jesus Christ for a time of learning, renewal, worship, and fellowship as part of the wider expression of our church.

The NALC is Congregationally Focused and this is evident in that every congregation may send a delegate; whereas in our predecessor body, one had to be elected from the regional expression. The fact that all pastors on our roster, whether serving under call or retired, and that every congregation may send a delegate should be viewed as a privilege and an opportunity.

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

I am hopeful that we will continue to build relationships and partnerships in the Gospel with other groups and church bodies throughout the world that share our orthodox Biblical understanding. I hope that these relationships will be not only denomination to denomination but congregation to congregation and congregation to ministry partner.

I believe that a culture of discipleship is the foundation for building these partnerships as well as for living out our baptismal covenant. I firmly

believe that we must not engage in partnerships simply for the sake of unity but must engage in thoughtful and deliberate dialogue, by the Holy Spirit's guidance, with potential partners in order to ascertain common ground from a biblical foundation. All else is folly.

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

I believe that we need to focus on youth and young adult ministry especially in light of the ending of Youth Encounter. We need to provide a national youth and young adult gathering and offer it during Lutheran Week. The timing is critical as it will likely keep costs down for everyone involved. In our Mission District, we have now had three consecutive summer youth camps and have expanded our facilities at Camp In-Tents. It is my hope that more mission districts will also be able to build their youth ministry offerings and that mission districts will be able to share in their resources with those who are more limited.

In addition, I see campus ministry as an untapped opportunity thus far for the NALC and this should be something we begin to explore intentionally and regionally. It is something that can, and should be, a local/Mission District focus in addition to being supported by the church body as a whole.

It is imperative that we continue to support and build on our seminary education so that we have trained pastors to lead our congregations and laity equipped and trained for Gospel work. We must support the seminary itself and its leadership and we must continue to find innovative ways to support those studying at the seminary. Thus far, great strides have been made, both financially and in other ways (such as on-line course offerings and tuition scholarships), and it's important to continue with this momentum and look at other ways to support and expand.

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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?

Discipleship needs to be a primary focus at every level within our church body as it will, and should, undergird all else in the worshiping community. As congregations, we are worshiping communities and as a church body, we are a worshiping community.

Disciple-making does not occur in isolation. It occurs in one-on-one mentoring, in small groups, and in larger groups. It is woven together throughout the entire Body of Christ.

To that end, some tangible actions may include workshops and planning for pastors, congregational leaders, and laity in the pews on the subject of a culture of discipleship. A paradigm shift never happens overnight. We must be intentional about the training, the biblical foundation, the vision, and the step-by-step process.

Too often, we find something useful and we implement it in isolation. This rarely works to change mindsets as it is being implemented in isolation with no follow-through. A step-by-step process to build that culture of discipleship, to make spiritually mature followers of Christ, is critical to change the culture. That plan must be in place, with goals and objectives, prior to implementing any activities and actions.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

God is woven throughout my day. He is always with me, and I feel His presence as I begin my day with prayer which carries me throughout the day. I turn to Him at various times, to rejoice and to lament, as He carries me to the evening. I pray that He will keep me safe from all the evil forces so that I may awake anew in Christ.

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

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” — Psalm 119:105

This verse holds great meaning to me. It tells me, and reminds me daily, that Jesus, the Word incarnate, lights my way as He is the Light of the World and that I am His. It reminds me that His written Word, the Holy Scriptures, guides me. It reminds me that as I am fed at His Altar, I am nourished by His Word. The Word speaks absolution to the contrite heart of my poor, miserable, sinful being. It sustains me.

Pamela Charas

Nominee for Executive Council - Lay

Name:

Pamela (Pam) Charas

Address:

Dayton, Ohio

Congregation:

Living Water Lutheran Church
Centerville, Ohio

Occupation:

Housewife, retired, in service
to the Lord.



Basic Biographical Information:

Married for 50 years. My husband, Myron, and I have two children, James and Kathryn. James is married to Michele and has one son, Samuel, age 16.

I have two years of college, have had great life experiences, and have traveled in 14 different countries.

Hobbies: I love mission work and participating in Bible study. I love international travel and decorating.

I have had various jobs throughout my life (as we moved around often with my husband's job):

- + Actuarial clerk
- + Dental assistant
- + Sales specialist
- + Bank teller
- + Nanny

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

Raised in the LCMS, and attended through age 45:

+ Sunday School superintendent

+ Lutheran Women's Missionary League Zone President, worked with women's groups in 20

churches, helped to plan rallies and retreats. At the District level, I helped plan a retreat for 500 women. I presented practical applications of the speaker's main points and was the song leader.

+ Was a member of a mission congregation in Kentucky that "went through" 4-5 pastors in 10 years! I am familiar with the struggles associated with trying to start a church in a place unfamiliar with Lutheran theology.

In the ELCA:

+ India Mission Team leader.

+ Headed up special events for fellowship and to raise money for missions.

In the NALC:

+ An elected member of The Women's Council (WNALC).

+ Chair of the WNALC Mission Support Team, created and developed "My Mission Bank" initiative, and support for pastors' spouses.

+ I've been to India on 14 short-term mission trips since 2004.

+ Instrumental in bringing United Evangelical Mission/India Transformed! to the NALC.

+ Led a short-term mission trip to India in 2016 and am planning one for January 2018.

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

As identified by fellow Christians, I have been blessed with the gift of faith, leadership, and evangelism. I have a heart for missions and a passion to reach the "lost."

- + Creative thinker.
- + Good listener.
- + Team player.
- + Open and frank, not reluctant to voice my opinion.
- + People person.
- + Have a willingness to learn.

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

- + Representing the Christian faith in a fallen society.
- + Administrative clarity — who is responsible for what and where is that stated?
- + Identify and eliminate any remnants of the ELCA practices.
- + Citing practical applications in connecting with and supporting ministry partners/recognized ministries as may be stated in the partnership agreements.
- + Getting the discipleship culture in motion.
- + Being Congregationally Focused.
- + I was reading over the 2014 Staff reports. I don't know how the staff can continue at such a horrific pace — the travel, the meetings, the congregational visits they have to prepare for, their administrative duties, etc. What will their job descriptions look like for future candidates?
- + I have found with the WNALC that they don't want to be told what to do. They want choices. They are not going to give up what has worked for them over the years for something similar, but different. For instance, some will not give up the Thank Offering service that they are used to having. We are suggesting doing a Mission Sunday. We hope that we can all eventually do that as an annual activity of the WNALC.
- + I think that many churches are lacking in their support of national and international missions and ministries.
- + I think the NALC leadership needs to recognize where their audience is at, to address those things which will benefit, encourage, and “train them in the way they should go!” A lot of training and transformation is needed.

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

- + To expand outreach.
- + That the Bishop and his staff would get greater support — a bigger team. I think that having such a streamlined staff can be good in some ways, but the weight of the work needs to be spread out among many or methods need to be created that benefit many more on a regular basis.
- + That there would be a better use of lay people.
- + That the “Mission Bank” initiative now being done by the WNALC would go church wide.

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

- + To give support to small, new NALC congregations.
- + Take steps to grow our congregations and the members. “Maintaining” membership is still the practice of many.
- + Children — understanding that they need to be trained to be future disciples and stewards of the gifts God has given them. There are a lot of things children can be doing now.
- + The training of many more pastors/lay ministers.

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?

- + Teach congregations to have a world vision.
- + The NALC, its Mission Districts, and its member congregations need to share the same goals. It seems we want congregations to make so many changes in their way of thinking and acting. That transformation has to come through the Word, prayer, and by example.
- + Don't rely on our leaders to do all the work. Seek out people with specific gifts who can impact areas of growth.

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+ The Mission Districts can take on a greater role of shepherding their member congregations, supporting them as they determine how to live out being Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven congregations.

+ The NALC has a limited history. What's new about what we're doing? Share that.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Through prayer and daily reading of the Scriptures, I recognize more and more how blessed I am to know the one true God, my living Lord, the Lord Almighty who reigns over my life, who knows my future, and knows what is best for me. I daily ask to be empowered by the Holy Spirit that the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart would be pleasing to Him. In sharing my faith with others, my faith is strengthened. Thanks be to Jesus.

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

I love to hear how the disciples share Jesus, the Gospel message.

The jailer asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Both Paul and Silas replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved...you and your household." — Acts 16:30-31

Then they went on to explain the Gospel more thoroughly to him and all the others in his house. (That's a pattern that the church planters use in India!) Paul and Silas' answer was concise and clear. We tend to complicate things. God gives us the words to say. God Himself works faith in the hearts of people. I have known/know many that don't know Christ. It's a joy to have the opportunity to share Christ, His love, His forgiveness, the hope we have in Him alone.

I love the way God speaks to us and through us. We don't have to be great theologians. Knowing Christ and His love for me, I can't help but share that love with others.

Brian Sutton

Nominee for Executive Council - Lay

Name:

Brian E. Sutton

Address:

Statesville, N.C.

Congregation:

St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Statesville, N.C.

Occupation:

Retired corporate Supply Chain and Technology
Manager



Basic Biographical Information:

Married to Hazel for 39 years. Have two married children and three grandchildren. Earned both BBA and MBA degrees at Montreat College in Montreat, N.C.

Hobbies include wood-turning, golf, gardening, learning to play piano, member of local Ruritan Club, addressing those in need in the community, enjoying time with family and grandchildren, RVing, assisting others in resolving technology issues, volunteering and serving on executive board of the local hospital volunteer organization.

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

During the course of the past 12 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

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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 National 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 the WordAlone Network and subsequently becoming an NALC congregation.

Most recently, I am currently serving on the NALC Executive Council. In that capacity, I serve on the task force to refine the process for election of Bishop, and I chair the task force charged with developing a strategy of structure for the NALC that will enable us to fulfill our four core values as we continue to experience growth. Have also participated in mission plant team resulting in a new church plant in the Triad area of North Carolina. Currently involved with another mission effort in the RTP area of North Carolina.

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 gifts 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 home bound and hospitalized. Have also served on the constitution, finance, endowment, and renewal committees. God has blessed me with the 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 home-bound members and be generally responsive to the needs of the congregation. God has given me a passion to utilize my experience in technology and leadership in the building up of His Kingdom.

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, if not most, congregations, but very essential to the church. The challenges in reaching the millennial population are daunting, requiring innovative and fresh approaches to our methods without diluting our adherence to the Confessions and Scripture.

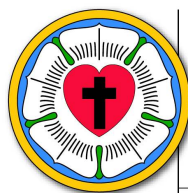
What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope and pray that God would move us to not only be bold in our proclaiming the Gospel, but that He would also have us to move to action in so many areas of need: the inner cities, the youth of our country who are spiritual drifters, and address the need for Christ in our society and in our governing agencies. With the change in our country's leadership, I hope that we'll see a greater Christian influence in governance and more opportunities for the NALC to proclaim the Gospel.

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

1. Proclaim the Gospel!
2. Grow Disciples.
3. Cast off ineffective habits of the past and adopt effective ways of outreach.
4. Live and Display Christ's love to all hurting people.
5. Stay true to the confessions and scripture in all our practices.
6. Grow a strong young cadre of NALC trained seminarians.

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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?

1. Take Christ to the community.
2. Be welcoming to visitors to our worship services.
3. Be willing to stretch our comfort zones in reaching the unchurched.
4. 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.
Serving others.

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

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
— Joshua 24:15.

This reminds me of what my purpose really is. It reminds me that all I am and have are gifts from God and the only appropriate response to God is to serve Him and utilize these gifts to His glory.

Mark Braaten

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:

Mark Braaten

Address:

Tyler, Texas

Congregation:

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Tyler, Texas

Occupation:

Pastor



Basic Biographical Information:

Married to Karen Pirner Braaten. Three children:
Amber 27, Christopher 25, and Cassaundra 23.

Graduated from Augsburg College in 1977.
Master of Divinity, Luther Seminary, 1981.
Doctor of Ministry, Luther Seminary, 2004.

Author of two books: *Come Lord Jesus: A Study of Revelation and Prayer as Joy, Prayer as Struggle*.
Also co-authored two books of children's sermons.

I enjoy canoeing, swimming, reading, fishing, and taking saunas.

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

Present member of the Executive Council of NALC.

Presently serve on Board of Directors for Sola Publishing.

Mission District Dean for North Texas from 2010 - 2017.

Former member of Lutheran CORE Steering.

Committee leading up to formation of NALC.

Former member and Chairperson of LC3 leading toward formation of NALC.

Parish Pastor for many years.

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

I believe God has given me good administrative skills and organizational abilities.

God has also given me a deep curiosity to think and pray and work through theological concerns and issues of ministry. I continually have to think through how our theological convictions shape our practices of ministry. We in the NALC are continuing to grow and expand our practices of ministry and outreach. I find it vital that, as we do so, we stay totally rooted in the Word of God and fully guided by our theological confessions and convictions.

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

We have grown more than we anticipated when the NALC was first formed. That is a blessing of course and also a challenge. The challenge is to grow and expand and organize in ways that best enable ministry and mission.

We are also committed to having a lean national structure while providing the necessary assistance and guidance to our congregations. That is a balance that we will continually have to work at, especially as we continue to grow.

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

My first hope and prayer is that we remain focused on Jesus Christ, that all that we do is grounded in Him.

I hope and pray that we continue to focus on discipleship, equipping people and congregations for lives of faith and following of Jesus.

I hope and pray that we continue to seek how to speak and live in a culture that is less and less open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is a powerful line in Psalm 137:4 which asks, "How do

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we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" The landscape we face in our day is becoming stranger and less open to Christianity. But we must continue to sing and celebrate the Lord's song!

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

First and foremost, live out of our core values — Christ-Centered, Traditionally-Grounded, Mission-Driven, Congregationally-Focused. In all that we do we must be rooted in Jesus Christ and led by Him.

More specifically, I'd like to see the NALC continue to look at how to organize and work in an efficient and faithful way. (We are doing good work with this, I want to see us continue and grow.)

We need to continue our work on redeveloping and deepening our present congregations, particularly our smaller congregations.

And let us continue to teach and foster discipleship!

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?

First and foremost, pray and read the Bible. I know this is obvious but life and growth in the church happen as people pray and read the Word.

Continue to find ways that congregations can partner with each other. I love our idea that each congregation needs to be connected to a domestic and overseas mission congregation. Those relationships are so vital.

In our North Texas Mission District, most of our growth has been with Hispanic people. In fact, the majority of our members are now Hispanic and we rejoice in that. I pray that we continue to learn from each other and work together to proclaim the Gospel to more and more people.

I am convinced that our Lord is giving us exciting opportunities. We need to continue to move into

these opportunities with faith in Christ and love for all.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I experience God in a variety of ways. I encounter Him when I read the Bible. I encounter Him in prayer, both in my private prayers and in prayer times that I am privileged to share with others. I experience God when I visit with the shut-ins of our congregation; so often they bless me more than I do them. I experience God when my children talk faith with me, or when a confirmation student wrestles with a question of faith. I experience God in worship and in the love of Christians.

I am convinced that all of life is lived in the presence of God. Our Lord shares moments of grace with us again and again and again!

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

"Behold, I am making all things new."
— Revelation 21:5.

I love this promise that God makes in Revelation. In the midst of an old world of sin and death, in the midst of lives of hurt and pain and confusion, the Risen Jesus is making all things, including us, new and alive in His grace!

Roy Harrisville

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:

Roy A. Harrisville III

Address:

Menomonie, Wis.

Congregation:

New Life Lutheran Church
Menomonie, Wis.

Occupation:

Pastor

**Basic Biographical Information:**

Wife: Mary.

Children: Kendra and David.

B.A., Concordia College;

M.Div., Luther Northwestern Seminary.

Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary in Virginia

Hobbies: Reading, walking, painting, and the honey-do list

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

Senior/Associate/Interim/Supply Pastor for over 30 years.

Professor of Biblical Studies and Academic Dean at Trinity Lutheran College.

General Manager of Fortress Press and Augsburg Books.

Executive Director of Solid Rock Lutherans.

Former District Dean of Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Mission District, NALC.

Chairman of the Task Force for Theological Education, NALC.

Author, editor, and I clean out the turtle tank too.

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

I believe I have the gifts of faith, preaching, teaching, administration, follow-through, analysis, listening, heart for the mission of the NALC, humor, dedication, team-work, patience, integrity.

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

Growing the NALC and fulfilling its mission to be a “big tent” Church that serves the needs of all confessional Lutherans and anyone thirsting for a faithful witness to Christ and His cross. Strengthen our communication across the NALC and celebrate what the Spirit is doing in our congregations. Evangelical outreach in each of our communities. Strengthen families to pass on the faith to their children.

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

I hope that we continue to grow the number of congregations, strengthen the ones we have, and become well known as a faithful and truly evangelical witness in the United States and Canada. I hope that we produce candidates for the ordained ministry who understand the challenges facing the Church in the 21st century. I hope that we never become complacent in our faith but are always open to the Spirit’s guidance through the Word.

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

We should continue to focus on family ministry in order to strengthen our homes. We also need to continue and strengthen outreach in our communities. We need to continue to concentrate on theological education in order to send out able workers in our congregations. We should seek closer ties with other confessional Lutheran churches in order to strengthen our shared witness.

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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?

It is essential that we maintain our confessional Lutheran perspective through faithful preaching and teaching. Give families the tools to pass on the faith to their children. Practice effective outreach to our communities to let them know who we are and what we profess. Train the next generations of leaders to interpret Scripture in a faithful manner that engages 21st century issues. Pray.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Through the Word and Sacraments. Prayer. Bible study. Devotions. Love of family and friends.

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

“We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father we too might live a new life.”
— Romans 6:4

It articulates the central theme of Christ’s death and that God transforms people from death to life. It means that we are not just new and improved models of our old life, but truly new creatures with a new life.

Ralph Reitmeyer

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:
Ralph W. Reitmeyer

Address:
Llano, Texas

Congregation:
St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Llano, Texas

Occupation:
Pastor



Basic Biographical Information:

Married to Ruth for 44 Years; two children grown and married; five grandchildren

Education:
BA, University of Houston, Clear Lake.
M.Div., Trinity Lutheran Seminary
Trained as a Spiritual Director in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.
Trained in Family Systems Theory usage in Congregations (Friedman).
Trained as a Pastor Developer.

Ordained: Sept. 6, 1987.
Served under call to congregations in Upstate New York (Zion, Athens) and Texas (Memorial, Texas City; Shepherd of the Woods, Humble; Christ the King, Universal City; St James, Llano).

Hobbies: Guitar, Gardening, Automobile Mechanics.

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

I have served as a Chapter Dean and part of the leadership of the Society of the Holy Trinity since 2008. I was instrumental in the formation of the Guadalupe River (Texas) Chapter of the Society.

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I have served on various community and church (synodical) committees and boards including, local Board of Education (Coxsackie Athens School District), Lutheran Marriage Encounter (Texas), Missions Board (Texas). Commission for Professional Leadership (Texas), Local Ministers Alliance (New York and Texas).

I have served the church as a Mission Redeveloper.

In my current position in Llano, Texas, I have been serving as a "Worker Priest" in order to make the finances work. This means having to balance between my duties as Pastor at St James and an employee at an auto parts store. In this role I have gained valuable insight into the difficulties of those serving smaller congregations who will need to take on a side job in order to make ends meet.

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

I have proven gifts of Leadership, Administration and Teaching demonstrated in my work in the congregations that I have served, in my work in the Society of the Holy Trinity, in my training of Spiritual Directors in the Ignatian Exercises, and my work in retail.

Through my training and work as a Spiritual Director I have discovered gifts of discernment and insight that have proven to be valuable throughout my ministry.

To these I add an ability named by the manager of the auto parts store that I have worked at for the past two years: The ability to calm things on both sides of the counter. This goes to the fact that in 30 years of ministry I have never had a contentious or combative Church Council.

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

The secular world in which we live grows increasingly hostile to the Church, the Word of Holy Scripture, and the work of sharing the Good News. In the coming years the pressure on the church to conform to a secular world view will increase. As a

Christian body that holds to a Lutheran Orthodoxy based on the balance of Law and Gospel, the NALC must gird itself to stand as a light that reveals the fallacy and death dealing in both body and soul that is delivered by that world view. At the same time the NALC must reflect the light and beauty that is found in the grace of God as revealed in the Word made flesh and the Word of Holy Scripture. We must do this not only because it is the righteous thing to do and that we are called to do so by our Baptism into Christ, but because there are so many who have never seen this light, or who have seen it but walked away from it and need to see it anew. This challenge will be even greater because of the forces that are allied against us, including Satan himself.

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

In regard to the mission of the NALC, my hopes run the spectrum of what I believe would be expected of one of its pastors. All of these have to do with the various ways that we, through word and deed, share the Gospel. In the years to come, however, I would hope we might supplement our mission efforts through instruction in and the use of apologetics. Realizing that our Lord promised to give us the words and wisdom that we would need (Luke 21), I see this as a way to further equip our congregations to fight the battles of the faith that come at us. The study of apologetics helps Christians by giving them insight to the battles that are raging around us and perhaps the confidence to engage when needed.

As Lutherans we have, in the past, been reluctant to wade into this part of the Christian witness. But there is a lot of good work that has and continues to be done in this area that we could take advantage of, adapt as needed, and perhaps even add to.

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

Recent generations had the likes of Barth, Rahner and Tillich (to name only three) and others of the same stripe who are well remembered for their service to Christ's Church. While a few of these

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lions of the faith are still with us, I am given to wonder who will be the great theological minds in the coming generations? Who will be the women and men whose writings reflect the kind of orthodoxy that we in the NALC celebrate? Who will the men and women be who will, by their writings and teachings, inspire the next generations of the Church, both clergy and laity?

I believe that we in the NALC need to make the development of such leaders from within our ranks a priority. This priority would be manifested, not only through the quality of instruction at our seminary, but also in attention to the identification and formation of individuals who have the intellectual and spiritual ability to fill these shoes. Having such individuals within our ranks would go a long way toward advancing the standing of the NALC both inside and outside of the broader church, and would be a good investment of energy and resources.

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?

Living out our commitment to be Christ Centered and Mission Driven requires effort and commitment on the part of everyone.

Starting with the leaders of the church, I suggest that we actively model and encourage the practice of praying through the Holy Scriptures. This, beginning with every pastor and moving out to every member, will point to an authenticity of this commitment to Christ and mission that will be impossible to deny and attractive to those outside our congregations. I suggest that we strongly encourage a daily practice of opening the Bible (especially the Gospels), reading and meditating on a small passage so that in my daily prayers God speaks first and I, in my prayer, respond to God. Stronger prayer life leads to higher commitment to Christ and mission, stronger disciples, and a Church that is able to speak the Word of God to people both inside and outside the community of faith.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

My day begins with Liturgy, Scripture and Prayer and ends with the same. In my training as a Spiritual Director I have learned the value of seeking to find God in all things. I have also learned the value of paying attention to the ways in which God is active and moving in my life. I see this through a part of my prayer practice at the end of the day where I engage in an exercise of considering that for which I am most grateful. I also consider that for which I need forgiveness, but the gratitude gets the greater emphasis as it reveals God active and leading me every day.

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

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

— Psalm 146:3-6

In the political climate that we have known I find in these words consolation and hope

Jeffray Greene

Nominee for Court of Adjudication

Name:

Jeffray S. Greene

Address:

Brooks, Ga.

Congregation:

Word of God Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Ga.

Occupation:

Pastor



Basic Biographical Information:

Married for 32 years to Lorene, I have three grown children, Roasalyne and Dane (who are married to Daniel and Liz) and Alisa. We have no grandchildren (yet, but anticipating that maybe it will be soon).

College, seminary and doctorate studies, as well as life-long learning that still continues, are a part of life-long learning. I work with my hands — wood, metal, electronics, whatever the need that may arise in my off time — and I do a lot of writing. I have published many articles and a few books.

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

A pastor for 27 years, I have served the Church in the parish, preaching and teaching the love of Jesus the whole time while also serving in various capacities for the greater church. I helped on the committee that wrote the NALC Constitution and have also served as an advisor to others in constitution editing. I am an incumbent and gladly have experienced no need for the job of adjudication, but also understand its value to hold all to accountability.

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

With varied abilities and a love for God's people, a passion for the Gospel, I am contemplative, always thinking, and love to interact with people. Praying for the best, but knowing that sometimes there are grave difficulties, I pray never to need the skills developed, but I am willing to use them to the best of my ability should the need arise to hold accountable or acquit any who would stand before the court.

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

We live in a culture that has rapidly changed and meeting what may happen as a result of the changes in culture is difficult. We're going to have to learn how to do some things differently. How we've done it may not work for how we need to do it. Finding a faithful path to proclaim the Gospel amidst cultural changes will be a great need. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, but understanding how our culture has shifted, we will need to be creative to meet it faithfully with Jesus' love.

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

I pray we continue on the path we've begun with our four core values and that we will grow by God's grace and in accord with His will to be a faithful witness of the Gospel as we carry forward the Great Tradition. I believe the Church is amidst changes as the world around us changes, yet we have the unchanging and unchangeable truth of Christ to share with all whom we meet.

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

Strengthening what we have while seeking to reach out with the truth of Jesus, we are going to be challenged, as we have already experienced, with showing the need to remain faithful to the Gospel

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which has been handed down to us. We exist because of the desire for the continuity of the faith received and it will be challenging to pass it along as faithfully as we have received it.

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?

Pray, pray, pray and then work, work, work, doing what disciples have always done. Preaching the Good News, taking care of the widow and orphan, and leading God's people to carry out their Gospel calling in daily life is at the core of discipleship. Moving from pew-sitting Sunday listeners to everyday disciple living has always been the challenge for the Church, but only when the love of Jesus comes from the heart out have we seen saints in action dramatically impacting the world around them. Encouraging this, which has never changed, is what the Lord has given us as His plan of action.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I seek to daily pray the offices, read Scripture and write everyday, currently praying through the Psalms and the Gospel of John. I have cared for others most of my life and this too is a part of the direction of the Holy Spirit to grow in me what He desires. Every day of life is God's sermon to me. I share what God has given, and that is my sermon to others. The One through whom all things have their being is always present and His presence is an undeniable part of everything I do. Whatever I do, I do seeking to serve the Lord. When I serve Him, others are served.

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

I am often asked this question and depending upon the circumstances, I will change my favorite verse for an appropriate response. Perhaps the one verse to which I come to most often is Romans 8:28 (with the remainder of the chapter in mind) as I remember that all things are now and always have been in the Lord's hands and that everything will

work to His glory. I desire for those around me to join in being among those who love Him that we may see His will done on earth as it is done in Heaven. He is the author and finisher of our faith and in times of difficulty as well as times of joy, I find this succinct reminder of God's sovereignty and perfect will a comfort and the ultimate hope.

Lyle Hollander

Nominee for Court of Adjudication

Name:

Lyle Hollander

Address:

Boyden, Iowa

Congregation:

St. John Lutheran Church
Boyden, Iowa

Occupation:

Semi-retired owner/partner in
manufacturing firm



Basic Biographical Information:

I have been married to my wife, Lorna, for 51 years. We have three daughters, one son, and 10 grandchildren from college age to 2 years. I attended Northwestern College, Orange City Iowa, and took courses in Digital Circuitry and Drafting from Northwest Community College, Sheldon, Iowa.

I began working for Sudenga Industries, Inc., a builder of truck bodies and various agricultural conveying equipment, in 1964 as a sales representative. In 1976, several employees and I purchased the company. In 1988 we purchased Dur-a-Lift, a company that builds aerial bucket lift trucks for utility and telephone companies. Since 2001, my partner and I have owned and operated the two companies under the name of Diversified Technologies. I have served as Vice President of Marketing since 1976. I have been semi-retired since March of 2016.

I have been a Kiwanis member since 1991, and a former Lt. Governor and Club President. I am a member of our local hospital board of directors, and I currently chair the Sheldon Civic Music Association, which brings folk and classical music concerts to Northwest Iowa.

My wife and I follow the activities of our active grandchildren, and enjoy our annual northern Minnesota fishing trip with our family of 19 and two dogs. We enjoy traveling to various areas of the

country with our camper, and try to spend some time during the winter in the South. We also enjoy attending various aviation activities, as I still am able to maintain a pilot's license, and enjoy flying my small plane occasionally. Lorna and I enjoy gardening and upkeep of our acreage.

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

I was brought up in our small, rural ALC church and received my lower grades education through our Christian Day School. I taught Sunday School for pre-teens and teenagers for approximately 30 years, and have served on our church council as President, Deacon, Trustee, and Treasurer. I enjoy music and have been a lifelong choir member. I most recently chaired the Call Committee during our church's call process in 2016.

I attended the WordAlone Network conferences as a congregational delegate, beginning in the second year of that organization's existence. I attended the Constituting Convocation of the NALC in Fischers, Ind., and have attended each Convocation since, as a delegate or guest. I have been able to attend the Iowa Mission District meetings on a regular basis.

Presently, a group of members from our congregation and I go to visit the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield S.D., to join in their weekly church service. Being a friend to prisoners has been a very rewarding experience for me. I very much enjoy our adult Bible class in our church as well.

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

I feel that God has given me a spirit of concern and compassion for people in difficult situations. Being a partner in a firm employing approximately 250 people, I have encountered people at their best and their worst. The ability to listen is perhaps His greatest gift to me, learned through the years.

In 1978, my wife and I, with several other members of our church, including our Pastor Dan Hart and his

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wife, Bev, and members of two neighboring congregations, formed New Hope Resettlement Association, which sponsored South East Asian Refugees, primarily through LIRS. We found homes and jobs for many Vietnamese and Laotian people. Our support continued for such a time until these folks were able to stand on their own. There were happy times and sad times, but all in all helping them find their place in a strange land was a very rewarding experience. Hopefully, they could see God's hand of providence in our efforts to help them. We were able to help over 40 people during those years. The result is that we have remained friends with many of these folks to this day.

The years I taught Sunday School were very valuable to me. I felt that perhaps I got more out of the lessons than the students did.

I served on our local school board for 10 years and chaired it for six years. Dealing with teacher-student-parent issues was an educational experience, in more ways than one. I served on the Merrill-Pioneer Hospital Board of Directors for six years, and am now joining the board for the second time.

Although I hope the need does not arise, if necessary, I pray that God can use me in problem resolution and reconciliation.

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

Standing firm on the Lutheran traditions, resisting secular trends and attitudes, and the spreading trend to Universalism.

Raising up a group of pastors and teachers who are faithful to the Word and in sufficient numbers to serve our established and start-up congregations. We may require accredited lay pastors and an active lay ministry to fill the need in the future.

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

I hope we can see more growth in areas not traditionally Lutheran, along with continued growth in the traditionally Lutheran areas.

I hope we find ways to increase fellowship and cooperation with other Lutheran denominations or associations while maintaining our core principles.

Most of all, I hope we can continue to be a vibrant, enthusiastic proclaimer of the Good News, and never lose our "salt or light."

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

Spread The Word through pastors who preach The Word faithfully as it is written.

Continue the mission efforts of the NALC, both foreign and domestic.

Be a welcoming church to all of God's children regardless of ethnic and social background.

Finding ways that we can be God's instrument of peace in a troubled world.

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?

Promote more Bible study and education for our members. Sola Publishing and *Connections* magazine have been wonderful resources.

Give renewed emphasis and support to our youth groups and organizations, as well as our men and women's Bible study and service groups.

Encourage and support seminarians to insure an adequate supply of pastors for our young church body.

Promotion of church-wide stewardship, which makes us accountable to God for what we do with

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what He has entrusted to us, both in material possessions and our environment.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

The lives of my wife and I have not been free from adversity and illness. Occasionally, I have to wonder where and how God is working through the events that are occurring in our daily lives, and sometime later, I can see how these events come together for my/our good. During these times, our Bible reading and family devotions have been a great joy and comfort to us. He comes to me each day in my prayer life which is an ongoing thing and not a fixed event. When I have questions and doubts, He reaffirms my faith, through reading the Word, and by recalling passages and teachings learned in my youth in our Christian Day School and confirmation and Sunday School classes.

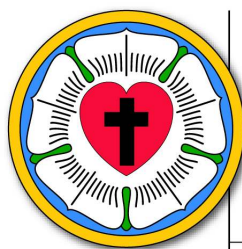
In addition, we have also seen some miraculous healing of friends, who were on respirators for life support, with no medical resources remaining. All that was left was the power of the prayers of our congregation and our families to effect a healing, and absolutely miraculous healings occurred. We asked for miracles, and we got them!

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

I have several verses that are special to me. The first is Isaiah 43:1-3a: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine ..." I was a youngster, probably 9 or 10, when I first heard this verse. One Mission Festival Sunday, the guest missionary spoke to our Sunday School opening in our small rural church. He read this verse, and pointed out that God knew me better than I knew myself. This was astounding to me, that God should know each one of us, and care for us personally. It has been a pillar of my faith/life ever since.

Another is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me/" In times of difficulty, illness, and discouragement, this verse comes to mind and offers peace and calm.

A verse which I think of often in these days of my advancing years is John 11:25-26. "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and he who lives and believes in me shall never die." What a prospect of the future!



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