

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

The Reverend David McGettigan

“His (Joseph’s) master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands”
—Genesis 39:3

As I write this message for our new Mission District Newsletter, I am in Columbus, Ohio for the Annual Dean’s meeting with our Bishop as well as a special day of congregational renewal training. Our events began with a wonderful Bible Study with Dr. Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, in which he took us to Genesis 39 reflecting on the secret to Joseph’s success as a model for all our success including for discipleship.

What has that to do with congregational renewal? Well, as Pastor Buba forcefully reminded us congregational renewal cannot happen until personal, individual renewal begins first – in other words until discipleship becomes the guiding force in all our lives.

So, how was Joseph renewed personally that brought him to success in his mission and that God is holding up as the way for our personal renewal that will equip us for congregational renewal as well? Pastor Buba outlined five biblical insights but I will only highlight the first in introducing this new newsletter. That first unmistakable and absolutely necessary step in authentic discipling renewal is **RELATIONSHIP**.

Here in Genesis 39:2 *“The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master”* Joseph began his “mission” in relationship with his Lord, and carried it forward in relationship to those around him in his master’s household. And we know that he was active in those relationships. This is early in God’s written word and we also know this



pattern is replicated in the lives of so many others who God calls and uses for his purposes, and it begins with – **RELATIONSHIP**.

Always, of course, healthy relationship is marked by communication. This Newsletter is our latest effort to provide a means for additional and more intense communication in our relationship as a Mission District encouraging and supporting each other in our discipleship journey. It is your Newsletter. What is communicated so that our relationships are deepened will depend on you – share your stories of struggle and success in discipling, your insights, your ideas, share the fruit of your Bible studies which may be inspiring you.

As your relationship with the Lord bears fruit, share that strength in relationship with brothers and sisters across the Mission District in every

way possible. We began this journey toward a relationship and communication approach at our recent Mission District Convocation where we changed the model a bit to “equipping” the saints with a more practical workshop approach and more time for conversation and dialogue. The feedback was positive. Our Newsletter is another step to allow for ongoing sharing of our lives in the Lord.

Jesus has promised to always be with us; His guiding, forgiving, caring relationship is guaranteed. Our relationships, particularly in this Mission District, tend to be a bit more difficult

often by geography and, sometimes sadly, schedules. I hope that some of the contacts I saw blossoming at the Convocation are being sustained at least through electronics. But we are also seeking other means of communication to encourage stronger bonds of relationship among us. Help Judy Mills and Robin Harris by contributing to this Newsletter.

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing”

—1 Thessalonians 5:11

God bless you!

THE ATLANTIC VINE CONTENT

- ***A Word from Our Dean***
The Reverend David McGettigan
- ***“Renewing the Local Church Through Discipleship”***
by keynote speaker *The Rev. Brad Hales*, Dean of the Virginia Mission District NALC and Pastor, Reformation Lutheran Church, Culpepper, VA.
- ***“How Big Is Your Net and How Far Are You Willing to Cast It?”*** by workshop presenter *The Rev. Peter DeBartolo*, Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gallupville, NY.
- ***“THINK BIG: get small”*** by workshop presenter *The Rev. K. Craig Moorman* of Rivers Edge Ministries, Mount Airy, MD.
- ***Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation*** at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, State College, PA.
- ***“So Happy Together...!”*** by *The Rev. Brett Jenkins*, Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Nazareth, PA, the newest AMD congregation.
- ***“What Do We Mean By Discipleship?”*** by *The Rev. Luke Seamon*, Pastor, Reformation Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA, and AMD Mission Team member.
- ***Spiritual Resource Book Reviews*** used by two AMD congregations.
- ***“Building Blocks To Be and Grow As A Disciple,”*** a discipleship tool.
- ***NALC and AMD Disaster Response***
Maryland and Pennsylvania Congregation drop off locations.

May reading *The Atlantic Vine* be insightful and inspiring. Forward a copy to your congregation members and especially your church leaders.

“RENEWING THE LOCAL CHURCH THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP”

Pastor Brad Hales — Keynote speaker, AMD Convocation October 13-14, 2017



When people look at the state of the Lutheran Church in North America today, there is a sense of “worry and concern.” Some are worried about the decline in worship attendance. Some are worried about the lack of children, and the increasing number of “gray hairs” sitting in the pews. Some are worried about the lack of discipleship development. And some are worried about the lack of passion and excitement for Christ. Some believe that the church is in a general “downward trend,” and are ready to throw in the towel. But why have this attitude? Don’t we believe in the power of the Holy Spirit? Don’t we believe that God can renew his congregations? Don’t we believe in this present age that this is the best time to be the Church?

The local congregation can be revived through the power of Jesus Christ, and it begins and ends with discipleship. So how can spiritual growth be promoted and increased? Through Worship, Holy Scripture, Prayer, Intentional Outreach and Niche Ministry.

Worship is the foundation of discipleship. Is our worship enthusiastic about Christ and open to the Spirit? Can others understand what is being

shared? Are we providing differing worship experiences at different times to encourage others to give praise and thanksgiving to God? Are we calling/texting individuals that fail to worship? Do we see the connection between worship and evangelism?

Holy Scripture is our everything. In Isaiah, the prophet tells us that when the Lord’s Word goes out, it never returns back void or empty, it does something. In the Gospels we’re reminded that heaven and earth will pass away, but Christ’s words will never pass away. And again in Isaiah, the prophet tells us that the Word of God endures forever. Local congregations should share the Word at all meetings and activities. Small groups should be started to teach and grow in the Scriptures. The Word should also be used for training, and as a weapon in spiritual warfare.

Prayer is the lifeblood in our relationship with the living God. Scripture calls us to pray unceasingly. This can be done by teaching on prayer, setting aside a time for congregational prayer, praying for specific needs during worship, and offering the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil for healing and deliverance.

In **Intentional Outreach**, the church is called to go outside of itself, and reach out to others. In Acts 1:8, Jesus reminds his disciples to be “my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” Locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Congregations can do this by finding needs in their communities and addressing them. Also, the church needs to reach out to its own members to help them grow in discipleship and witness. Visiting and building relationships is a large part of this.

The local church cannot be all things to all people. So instead of trying to do this, may the congregation realize the blessings that God has provided them, and do ministry with those

blessings. This is called **Niche Ministry**. Instead of worrying about the things we don't have, may we focus on the ministry opportunities we already have.

The local congregation can be renewed through discipleship. Instead of being "gloom and doom" about the state of Christ's church today, may we

realize this is the best time to be the church, sharing Jesus to our friends, relatives, associates and neighbors. (F.R.A.N.). Our church can be revived and revitalized. And may this renewal be centered upon Christ.

Pastor Brad Hales

Reformation Lutheran Church, Culpepper, VA

— — — — — "HOW BIG IS YOUR NET AND HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO CAST IT?"

by Pastor Peter DeBartolo, Evangelical Lutheran Church

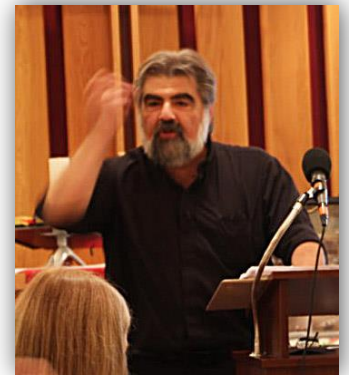
What a great time we had at the AMD Convocation. It was a joy to share with you how the Lord has chosen to use us where we are. The good news is that we all have the big net of the Gospel and the net still works to "drag people" or draw people to Jesus. It just takes people to work the nets, be willing to listen to the Lord's call, to perhaps go to deep water with the net, or maybe it's that you are being called to just drop the net on the other side of the boat.

Fishermen don't just talk about fishing or wait for the fish to jump in the boat, they actively seek the fish, going where they are, and then -- they fish. Fishermen are called to fish. Disciples are called to disciple. The Church is called to not just invite people to church, but be the Church, ...not so much trying to bring people to Christ as to bring Christ to people, ...loving those He would love, ...caring about those He would care about, ...reaching out to those He would reach out to.

After we find a strategy to go out and find them, we need to remember to make sure we have a strategy to keep them. Have several people invite others to church, and even more people welcome them when they get there. Then, connect them with groups within the church where they will feel loved and welcomed.

The two books which I had recommended have been around for a while, but perhaps need to be in

your church library and read by those interested in outreach. The first is "Finding Them, Keeping Them," 1991, by Glen Martin and Gary L. McIntosh. Step by step it assists the church in establishing both strategies, find them then keeping them.



The second book is called "Networking the Kingdom," 1990, by O. J. Bryson, which helps in developing disciples and outreach groups within the church. Hopefully in some way these books will be encouraging and give you additional excitement and energy to go out there where Christ calls us to cast those nets, and, with great joy, let Him prove to you the net still works.

Thank you again for the opportunity to talk to you at the Convocation about a topic I love... telling "the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

Now, fellow net-casters, it's time to go fish as we network the kingdom and give God the glory.

In His Kingdom Work with You,

Pastor Peter DeBartolo

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Gallupville, NY

THINK BIG: GET SMALL

Implementing Small Groups with a Big Mission Focus

by Pastor K. Craig Moorman, River's Edge Ministries

Martin Luther was once asked what he would do if he knew the world was going to end tomorrow, he replied—"I'd plant an apple tree." This proverbial saying does not appear in any of his collected works, but certainly it's something Luther could have said. A seemingly humble and small response from a man of such great stature. I believe his message from that statement is really one of faith and humility. Clearly, it exudes hope in the face of a rather overwhelming predicament.

The small act of planting a tree can become an act of faith, creating a certain *future* in the midst of uncertainty in the *present*. It demands trust and letting go as well as a season of waiting and watching. The growth and eventual outcome of the tree—its harvest—is determined by One much greater than either the "planter" or the situation. It's been said that "faith and despair cannot remain in the same heart." (*Henrietta C. Mears*) With his response, Luther was presented with a choice, and he chose faith. When we relinquish control and put aside our "big" aspirations and plans, God can work through us much more effectively.

Likewise, we have choices to make in our good work as pastors and leaders in His Church. We can become overwhelmed and immobilized by *all that needs to be done* in the present moment or 'plant apple trees' that will bear fruit far beyond our control and expectation. I would like to propose that we choose the latter. This reminds me of a parable found in Mark 4:26-29: "*The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how... But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.*"

This is what the 'planting' of a small group ministry will demand. We'll soon discover that

this choice will move us beyond the walls of 'doing only' the large Sunday morning gathering and see there is something more, even bigger...but it's smaller. Well, it can seem like a rather small, insignificant thing—just one more thing among many things—but it is not. I'm suggesting we pursue a model as old as the New Testament, implementing small groups with a big mission focus. As you know, the Early Church was able to effectively and faithfully penetrate the culture as salt, light, and yeast—for a tremendous Gospel impact—by gathering as smaller missional groups in homes.



From my own experience of developing 'small group life' within the context of both more traditional church settings and new church plants, it has made all the difference in the lives of those who have participated! The difference has to do with discipleship and leading people into a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Consider this case in point: My brother, Cary, and I launched a small group-based church (from a handful of people) and within three years we had 8-9 groups meeting weekly with up to 170 adults and youth involved. Our kids, now in their late teens/twenties, enjoyed the Sunday morning gatherings but it was the Monday night small group time they were most excited about. I am aware that 80-90% of the children from that time (and there were dozens) have grown into mission-minded, Christ-centered disciples. We know the statistics and how this percentage might compare to other churches making or *not making disciples* during that same time frame. I believe our effectiveness was largely due to the impact of doing life together in our homes. Mission flowed from this wellspring of discipleship.

An intentional small group ministry will not only bring a greater unity and celebration to your Sunday morning gathering but it will become the frontline of your missional and evangelistic efforts. There will no longer be a need for an 'Evangelism Committee,' especially when you realize that it's the *whole* of the Body enthusiastically participating as missional partners instead of just a handful of 'committee members' doing the work. Everything changes... for the good!

Here's a quick glance at the DNA of small group life or missional community. This is what small group life is *not*: It is not a Bible study, knowing about God, Pastor-led, just another meeting, an entity unto itself, a one-way conversation. It is a place where life is shared. A place where common joys and worries are discovered. It is knowing about God *but also* getting to know the fullness of His love for us in Jesus Christ. Though it's not a Bible study, lively conversation will be exchanged centered in the Word. Sharing this type of life will naturally flow into a wondrous missional witness. And the world will take notice! Small group life is not about committees, it's about community. It is not about programs but people. It's not about ritual but relationship.

Implementing small group ministry will look more like an organism than an organization. It is flexible, holistic, innovative, and God-breathed. Sharing life together through small groups provides its participants—family members—a place to stand when all the world's demands and activities seem like shifting sand. It will be a blessing beyond your imagination.

If you want to THINK BIG...get small, as Jesus defines smallness through His Kingdom sayings, "*The Kingdom of God is like*" a mustard seed, child, etc. As a church, if you want to THINK BIG, develop a small group ministry that's at the very core of your life; not a small group ministry

afterthought or simply one that's tacked on to appease the small group groupies but one that will carry the lifeblood of your community of faith. Move it towards mission beyond the 'walls' of your Sunday morning gathering place. Church buildings are not the Church. It is a base of operation. You know that and I know that, but I don't believe our corporate mindset has shifted from this way of thinking. When we begin this shift, we begin to reform.

You know the old adage, we are the Church—ecclesia/ἐκκλησία—called together, only to be scattered...scattered into many and various places. And when we think big and get small, we re-envision the Church as a base and a field, a center from which small groups or missional communities are launched. It's encouraging to know that mission will inevitably flow from those multiple locations impacting multiple lives for the sake of the Kingdom. Why remain 'stuck' in just one location one day a week when there is such a dynamic and biblical alternative. "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...*" Let's implement a means by which we can more readily and faithfully increase laborers for this desperate age. If we don't partake of the harvest, who will?

Pastor K. Craig Moorman
River's Edge Ministries
Mount Airy, Maryland

Note: If you have any questions or interest in participating in a half-day workshop, *THINK BIG—get small*, please contact us and we'll be glad to work with your ministry setting and leadership. We will consider how you can take the necessary next steps in implementing a small group/missional community-based model. You can reach me at 240-315-7997 or kc_moorman@msn.com.

COMMEMORATION OF 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION AT EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, STATE COLLEGE, PA

Submitted by Emmanuel Lutheran Church



Emmanuel Lutheran Church in State College, PA, celebrated and commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with two wonderful events. First, on Saturday, October 28th, about 40 people heard the Rev. Dr. Amy Schiffrin, president of the NALC Seminary in Ambridge, PA, speak on Luther's Preaching of Christ from the Old Testament, and then on the Exclusivity of Christ as our Way to the Father. The two talks were separated by a lovely lunch where members of Emmanuel could chat with others from our community as well as a group from Bethany Lutheran (NALC) in Williamsport

who came for the presentation. How nice to spend time with our NALC brothers and sisters in Christ. Many thanks to Dr. Schiffrin for her time spent with us and her generosity of spirit and graciousness.

The second event happened on Sunday morning, October 29th, when Rev. Mark Chavez, from Landisville, PA, who is General Secretary of the NALC, preached and then shared some conversation and information with the congregation in a coffee and treats reception after church.

We are thankful for these two from our NALC who took time out of their schedules to be with us in State College.



SO HAPPY TOGETHER...!

by Pastor Brett Jenkins, Holy Cross Lutheran Church

I have heard it said that, "Family is more catholic than friends." What was meant is that you will often find more diversity within your own family than you find among your friends, since obviously friends are chosen because they are like you in interests and social grouping.

On October 15th, Abundant Life Lutheran Church, a mission congregation of the NALC, decided to merge its ministries by the end of the year with Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Nazareth, PA, who joined the NALC in August. By year's end, we will be one church family...and we are not just happy about this, we are *ecstatic*!

As a group of leadership from each congregation met to work out the details of becoming one family, what became immediately clear is that the strengths of one congregation were the challenges of the other. To be sure, there will be plenty of challenges for us to tackle in the course of ordinary ministry, but it was encouraging to see

the Lord's hand in our coming together, strengthening our common witness by giving us to each other.

As the NALC, one of the challenges we face is how spread out we are. All of us face the challenge of being more gifted for some ministries than others. Though it would not be desirable for most of us to merge our ministries, we can strengthen one another and the NALC regionally by finding creative ways to work with one another, particularly when our strengths would compliment each other.

For instance, if your congregation doesn't have many youth but has a heart for its youth to learn the Gospel, could you sponsor children at another congregation to go to confirmation camp or a summer service project? Could the youth of your church visit another congregation to help them get a youth ministry started? Since I started in ministry as a full-time youth minister over twenty years ago, I have had the privilege of participating in such ministry exchanges many times over the years, and they always benefit *both* of the involved congregations.



How could your congregation benefit from working with others in our Mission District? How could you benefit their ministries? As a family of faith, we are more catholic—more *universally* gifted—as a mission district than as individual congregations.

How can we be more effective *together*?

Pastor Brett Jenkins

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Nazareth, PA

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “DISCIPLESHIP”?

By Pastor Luke Seamon, Reformation Lutheran Church

You may have heard the words “disciple,” “discipleship,” and “disciple-making” a lot lately. That's a good thing. After all, Our Lord Jesus did send us, His Church, out into the world, saying: “go, therefore, and make disciples.” However, in speaking with parishioners and pastors, all sorts of images emerge when we speak about “disciple-making:” from street preachers and knocking on doors, to feeding the hungry. It seems to me many Christians don't quite understand what we are talking about when we talk about disciple-making.

We should let Jesus teach us what He means by making disciples. He says it in Matthew 28:19-20: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations:

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

So, how do we make disciples? It's simple. First, we bring people to be baptized in God's Triune name and then we teach the baptized Christ's doctrine and how to follow Him. That's pretty simple.

How does this happen specifically? There are three levels in which Jesus made disciples: (1) to the crowds, (2) to His twelve disciples, and (3) to the small group of three: Peter, James, and John. Jesus works on the same levels today through His

Church: (1) the public worship of the Church in Word and Sacrament, (2) Bible studies like Sunday School and small groups, and (3) life to life relationships of two or three.

Each level is necessary for discipleship. *First*, at public worship we receive Christ as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament to forgive our sins and give us His own body and blood as the necessary bread of life to journey in this world. *Second*, at Bible studies we grow in our knowledge of Scripture and theology, coming to know who God is, how He works, and who we are in relation to Him.

Third, in “life to life” relationships we receive focused mentoring and spiritual friendship from other disciples who help us to apply what we are learning from Scripture in the messiness of our daily lives. These are relationships to which Christians intentionally commit in order to help others grow in learning how to follow Jesus in their vocations at home, work, and church.

It is this third level, “life to life,” that we most lack in our modern American congregations, including Lutherans. We generally understand the importance of public worship. Most Christians understand in theory that they should be studying the Bible with others. But, we have let the all important third level fall into near complete misuse. The result is that while most Christians know they should pray daily, rarely has anyone taken the time to sit down and actually show us how to concretely do this. We hear that we should be teaching our children Scripture and sharing our faith with our neighbors, but no one has walked with us to help us know precisely what steps to take to do this. This is the level in which life to life discipling relationships are meant to work: right where life and faith should meet.

Life to life discipling relationships are made up of three elements:

First, they are highly relational, towards God and one another. One major focus is the development

of genuine spiritual friendships of trust and support. Discipling means sharing life together and will result in true intimacy.

Second, life to life discipling centers on discovery and discussion around God's Word. These are not just social groups, they are spiritual friends who gather together around open Bibles, expecting God to speak to them as they “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest” the Divine Word together. This is the heart of discipling and the source of power for transformation of lives.

Third, life to life discipling encourages accountability, affirmation, and application. Accountability means having those who are committed to helping you follow Christ help you follow through with what you are learning. Affirmation means they apply grace liberally when you fail and point you to Christ and His forgiveness as the source of power. Application means helping you to bring the truth of Scripture into all the areas of your life, for Christ is already there working.

Finally, the goal of all levels of disciple-making is multiplication. Jesus makes disciples so that He can send them out to make more disciples. You have a role in this, too! You may not have the vocation of preaching, but you are called to participate and support the public worship of Christ's Church in some way. You may not have the vocation of teacher of Scripture, but you are called to participate and support the classes and learning of the Church in some way. Yet, when it comes to life to life discipling relationships, all Christians have the vocation of helping other Christians learn to follow Christ in their own lives. This is probably the most important thing you could ever do in this world, and probably the most rewarding.

Pastor Luke Seamon
Reformation Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

EFFECTIVE RESOURCES TO CONSIDER

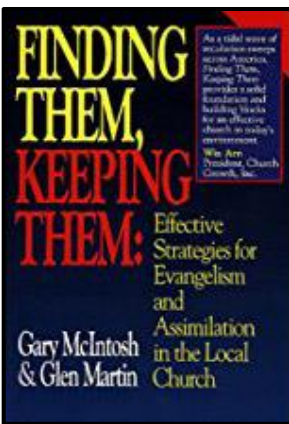
This section of each newsletter is devoted to aspects of 'growing disciples' in our NALC congregations. The impact may be small or large yet the most important thing is congregational sharing in the ways they build and grow the discipleship foundation in their churches, small groups and communities that it may spark ideas for other congregations to use as a springboard to broaden one's base of being a disciple.

RESOURCE BOOKS

The two books noted in Pr. Peter DeBartolo's article...

"Finding Them, Keeping Them: Effective Strategies for Evangelism and Assimilation in the Local Church"
1991, by Glen Martin and Gary L. McIntosh.

Book Description: This book is an excellent step to help laypeople understand the science of church growth and apply it to their local church.

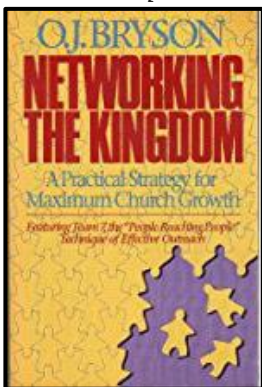


McIntosh and Martin have taken the traditional concepts of church growth and written them so the average layperson can understand them. For many years church growth has been in the hands of

scholars and pastors. This book attempts to help laypeople and church leaders understand the terms and apply them to their church.

"Networking the Kingdom," 1990, by O. J. Bryson.

Book Description: Gary McIntosh and Glen Martin have distilled the complex formulae of church growth and retention theory into concepts that are comprehensible to non-experts with a view toward recruiting the church at large in the work of evangelism

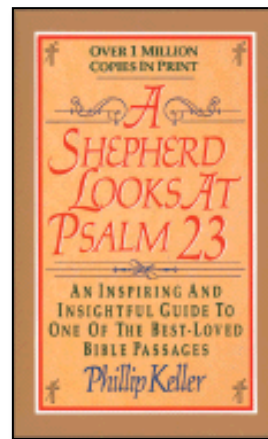


and discipling. A dynamic approach to church growth Bryson's strategy systematically penetrates a community by utilizing its greatest asset...its people.

A book used by Pr. DeBartolo and has been well received by several small Life to Life groups at Reformation Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA.

"A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 by Phillip Keller."

Book Description: This timeless classic describes a



shepherd's view of the love Jesus the Shepherd has for his flock. From the firsthand experiences of one who has developed and managed sheep ranches, this is an inspirational and refreshing look at one of the best-loved and well known portions of Scripture. It is inspiring and speaks of the

reassurance we have in our Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

(Note: Due to multiple publications of this same book the outside cover varies.)

BUILDING BLOCKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Another Resource from Reformation Lutheran Church

Each week Reformation Lutheran in Lancaster publishes “**Building Blocks of Being and Growing as a Disciple**” in their bulletin. These “Building Blocks” focus on the Word through the weekly lectionary from which one or two verses are selected then amplified with commentary of not more than 225 words. Written by 13 church members, reviewed by Pastor, they are then published in the Sunday worship bulletin where there is also a place below the commentary for sermon notes and/or notes from the “Building Blocks.” Each amplification ends with a “thought to ponder” which is a question for the reader to focus on in the coming week. The intent is to nurture not only growing in the Word, but to also grow closer to Christ in thought, action, and to grow as a disciple. Having 13 member participants means this ministry is not only shared, assignments for Life to Life volunteers occur only four times a year. The following example is taken from Sunday, November 19th.

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

—Matthew 25:21 & 23

In this parable, the master represents Jesus and the servant represents a believer. God has placed talents and gifts into this believer’s stewardship. The believer has faithfully used his gifts to multiply them for the master. He is rewarded with the joy of being in God’s kingdom both now and in eternity. (“Enter the joy of your master.”) When we faithfully use the gifts God has given us, both our talents and material means for furthering the Kingdom we too receive the joy and peace that comes from serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus, and the joy of seeing His kingdom grow. This may mean using one’s talents to share the love of God locally and/or supporting an organization or individual whose ministry is to share the Gospel.

Thought to ponder: How can I be a good steward of my God-given gifts in order to share the love of Jesus and further the Kingdom of God?

—Source: Lutheran Study Bible

If you have interest in doing something similar send an email to ‘newsletter@atlantic-nalc.org’ to receive Reformation’s basic guidelines (you can easily modify) plus a 2018 flow chart module.

HAVE AN EFFECTIVE RESOURCE YOU CAN SHARE?

Sharing resources helps others grow. Share resources be they books, activities or other, that you have found to be effective tools in your congregation or small groups are appreciated.

Email your shared resource/s to ‘newsletter@atlantic-nalc.org’ for the spring edition. Let’s keep adding those ‘Building Blocks of Discipleship.’

3 ATLANTIC MISSION DISTRICT CHURCHES CONTINUE TO SERVE AS DISASTER RELIEF DROP-OFF POINTS

Saint Timothy Lutheran Church

4200 Carlisle Pike, Camp Hill, PA

Saint Jacob's Lutheran Church

3444 Sticks Road, Glen Rock, PA

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

3620 Red Rose Farm Road, Baltimore, MD

Find more details see the AMD website at Atlantic-NALC.org. You can also check the NALC's Disaster Relief information page at thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response. Need further information? Contact Disaster Response Coordinator Mary Bates at nalcdisastercoord@gmail.com.

PHOTOS: "STUFFING THE TRUCK" OCTOBER 13, 2017 AT THE AMD CONVOCAION

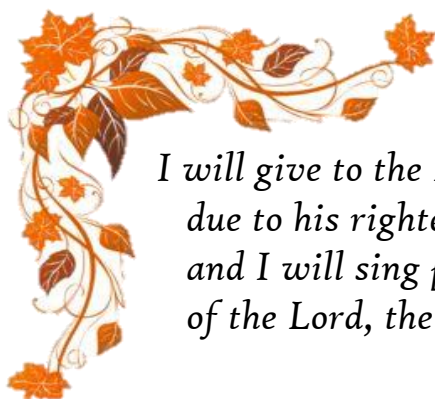


MAKE NOTE: THE NEXT AMD NEWS

Next submission deadline for The Atlantic Vine — Tuesday April 10th.....just after Easter

Email Judy with your communications and correspondence to: newsletter@Atlantic-nalc.org on or any time before April 10th.

- Publicize your upcoming special events on the AMD calendar.
- Communicate what's happening in your congregation.
- Share effective resources.



*I will give to the Lord the thanks
due to his righteousness,
and I will sing praise to the name
of the Lord, the Most High.*

Psalm 7:17