

THE MESSY MIDDLE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING ATLANTIC MISSION REGION CONVOCATIONS

BY ROBIN HARRIS, AMR ADMINISTRATOR

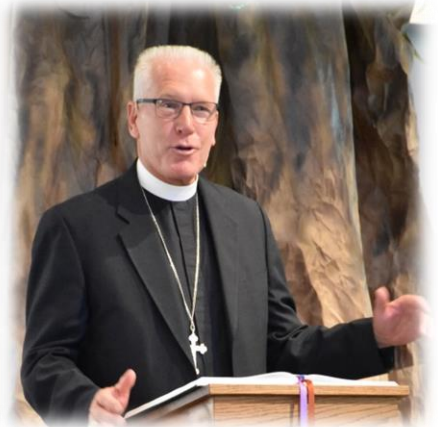
This past spring was a very busy time in the Atlantic Mission Region. All four Mission Districts in the AMR met individually for the first time for fellowship, worship and for the business of electing an ordained Assistant Dean and lay representative to the AMR Council.

Each Mission District discussed the realignment transition from one geographically large Mission District into one large Mission Region subdivided into four geographically smaller Mission Districts. A proposed AMR Constitution was also reviewed and discussed. Dean David McGettigan led the realignment and constitution discussions at all four meetings.

At each meeting there were also updates and additional information regarding the Renewal and Discipleship Team (see more on pages 9 & 13) and the introduction of the NALC Disaster Response



Atlantic Mission Region Dean
The Rev. David McGettigan



NALC Bishop
The Rev. John Bradosky

Mobile Tool Trailer initiative. Information on the Tool Trailer initiative was distributed to each participant to take back to their congregations describing the intent and the donations needed to fully fund and supply a rapid response mobile tool trailer for NALC Disaster Response. (For more information on the Tool Trailer see page 4.)

The following is a brief synopsis of each Mission District meeting:

CENTRAL MISSION DISTRICT (southcentral PA) met on May 4 at Reformation Lutheran Church in Lancaster, PA. Temporary Assistant Dean Pr. Abera Hellemo (Vinemont LC, Reinholds, PA) led the elections and the worship.

There was some very animated discussion over the proposed constitution, primarily surrounding grammatical errors and the use of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Continued



The Rev. Kerry Maurer, Interim Pastor, St Luke L C



Elected AMR Council

Dick Anderson, Pr Dan Schaefer, Pr John Kulczycki, Joan Oliphant, Jerrie Rosenfeld, Pr Brett Jenkins, Pr Steve Shipman missing Sarah Raley

Election Results: The Rev. Dan Schaefer (interim at St. John LC, Birdsboro, PA) was elected as Assistant Dean. Joan Oliphant (Vinemont LC, Reinholds, PA) was elected as lay representative.

NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT (northeast PA, New Jersey, New England and eastern New York) is the geographically largest district in our Region. The NEMD met on May 11 at Holy Cross Evangelical LC, Nazareth, PA.

Lee Mills (current AMD Council member) led the election for Assistant Dean. Temporary Assistant Dean Pr. Brett Jenkins led the lay representative election and the worship. For those attending the meeting via teleconference, MailChimp was used for the balloting.

Election Results: The Rev. Brett Jenkins (Holy Cross LC, Nazareth, PA) was elected as Assistant Dean. Sarah Raley (Holy Cross LC, Nazareth, PA) was elected as the lay representative.

This meeting's biggest topic of discussion was strategic planning for this geographically large area. It was noted that since there are more Lutheran churches in this corner of PA than in the entire NALC, there is a huge opportunity for growth. Also discussed were different means of district and regional media exposure such as Google, Facebook and YouTube.

SOUTHERN MISSION DISTRICT (eastern Maryland, Washington, DC and all of Virginia) met on May 18 at Annapolis Evangelical LC, Edgewater, MD. By this time the Dean almost didn't need notes to lead the realignment and constitution discussions.

Lee Mills (current AMD Council member) led the election for Assistant Dean. Temporary Assistant Dean Pr. John Kulczycki led the election for lay representative and the worship.

Election Results: The Rev. John Kulczycki (St. Matthew LC, Middle River, MD) was elected as Assistant Dean. Jerrie Rosenfeld (Reformation LC, Culpeper, VA) was elected as lay representative.

Sharp eyes noticed there were sections included in the proposed constitution that were no longer valid (ecclesiastical balloting procedure for electing an Assistant Dean, for instance). They were stricken, and the Dean could not believe no one noticed them before.

WESTERN MISSION DISTRICT (west shore of the Susquehanna River from the PA/MD border up to State College, PA) met June 1 at St. Timothy LC, Camp Hill, PA. Pr. Keith Eslinger (current AMD Council member) led the election for Assistant Dean. Temporary Assistant Dean Pr. Steve Shipman led the election for the lay representative and the worship.

Election Results: The Rev. W. Stevens Shipman (interim at St. Timothy LC, Camp Hill, PA) was elected as Assistant Dean. Richard "Dick" Anderson (St. Luke LC, Bloomsburg, PA) was elected as lay representative.

Much to Dean McGettigan's surprise, this Mission District also managed to find additional significant things that needed editing in the Constitution! The English majors also corrected even more grammatical errors and sentence structures.

Continued

THE COMMON THREAD...

The one point of great discussion that came up at every Mission District meeting was the probable upcoming restructuring of the NALC on the national level. This restructuring may take place within a year or two following the August election of our new Bishop at the national Convocation in Indianapolis. The tentative plan is for the NALC to be divided into six geographic Regions (plus Canada) each with its own appointed Regional Bishop and elected Deans.

This probable restructuring will alter our geography making our Region much larger – maybe from New England all the way down to Florida (and maybe including the Gulf states). The Dean assured all that our work realigning into a Mission Region in our corner of the country will not be completely undone. When restructuring occurs meeting together for mutual support, fellowship, worship and the equipping of the saints as a smaller cluster within our new massive Region will continue.

THE HAPPY ENDING...

On June 22 all four Mission Districts of the Atlantic Mission Region gathered at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Bloomsburg, PA to put the final seal on the realignment and adopt the newly revised AMR Constitution. The family of St. Luke did an outstanding job of hosting our day together. However the most exciting part of the day was the presence of our NALC Bishop John Bradosky who gave a very insightful conference on Baptism. He also preached during the Liturgy of Holy Communion. (An audio file of the Bishop's conference and his sermon are posted on St. Luke's website at www.stlukesway.org. Scroll about half way down their home page to find it.)

St Luke had been transformed into the Serengeti for their upcoming Vacation Bible School week. The Bishop and Dean both spoke under a massive kapok tree (right there in the chancel!) with different critters, such as a rhinoceros, a giraffe and lion, standing close by. This exciting and

celebratory atmosphere matched the excitement of finalizing our realignment and the joy we felt at being all together with our Bishop for fellowship and worship with like-minded believers.

By the end of the Constituting Convocation there was an adopted constitution (amended, of course - more sentence structures were edited at the business meeting) and the installation of our newly-elected AMR Council.

The convocation closed with a very upbeat worship liturgy that equaled the joy we all felt. The offering received during the worship was designated for the NALC Disaster Response Tool Trailer initiative. A total of \$803 was received.

How appropriate that one of the hymns sung during the Eucharist was *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. The faithfulness of Our Lord was apparent through this “messy middle” transition which brought us to a renewed fellowship with each other. Everyone felt that joy as we worshiped and celebrated our realignment with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.



“NALC DISASTER RESPONSE TOOL TRAILER...” Reaching Toward the Goal Line But Not There Yet!

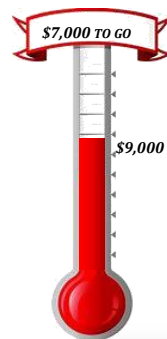
By Lee & Judy Mills, Project Coordinators, Reformation Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA

The NALC Disaster Response Tool Trailer project is moving forward thanks to those who have blessed this outreach project with contributions, large and small, by many within our Atlantic Mission Region congregations. *However approximately \$7,000 is needed to complete the project.*

As of July 12, 2019 the trailer is purchased, the electrical modifications added, and the exterior graphics applied. The design for interior modification is complete plus modifications for the work shop, transport and storage area are underway. A few power tools have been secured but many more are needed. *Funding is now required to obtain the remaining tools that Mary Bates, our Disaster Response Coordinator, is hoping to find inside when the trailer is turned over to her.*

With regarding to the Tool Trailer's blessing and dedication for serving the Lord and those in need, no date has been set due to the point of completion. The goal is to have the trailer serving its purpose as quickly as possible.

Congregational appeals are still encouraged. If your congregation has already made an appeal forwarding received donations would be appreciated. Distribution of the flyer that is an attachment with *The Atlantic Vine* Newsletter publication email is also encouraged. Individuals may personally contribute as well.



Please make checks payable to
Reformation Lutheran Church
in the memo section
designate *Tool Trailer*.

Please mail donations to
Disaster Response Tool Trailer
PO Box 172, Mount Joy, PA 17552.



Trailer showing graphics design



Ron Miller installing additional electrical

ST LUKE “SNAPSHOT” — “GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING!”

By Richard Anderson, AMR Council Member & Leader at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg, PA

“God is up to something,” confidently explained Dean David McGettigan during the recent North American Lutheran Church Mission Region meeting. Although no mortal can fully understand or measure that something, the Dean was voicing the perceptible truth that those who hold to the Word are in the midst of a powerful surge. For example, within a few short years the

NALC, begun in Ohio with a small gathering of Lutherans, has become a fast-growing multinational denomination with a membership approaching 150,000.

During the June 22 Atlantic Mission Region convocation, the NALC Bishop and AMR Dean, as well as the attending assistant deans and AMR

pastors, staff, and lay representatives gave St. Luke Lutheran Church reasons to be assured of its choice in the NALC. The guests were a joy to host and reflected the qualities of dedicated, competent, and indefatigable workers who have reset Lutheranism to its traditional biblically oriented course. Bishop Bradosky delivered two profound and deeply spiritual addresses. And he confirmed that our denomination will not be swayed by ever-changing worldly culture. Pastor Kerry Maurer, the St. Luke praise group, and attendees during the services also contributed substantially to the convocation.

Civilization is a treacherous stream which offers benefits but also meanders through a continually shifting mix of ideologies, philosophies, attitudes, and perceptions which lack correlation to Holy Scripture and have led, as they still lead, to great illusions during every epoch in the history of mankind. St. Luke Lutheran Church now has joined with NALC partners and other Christians in the conviction that the lamp of the Holy Spirit, guiding us through God's Word, takes us on the lighted path.

Yes, God is up to something.
 Grace and peace be with you.

UNEXPECTED TRANSFORMATION SERIES CONTINUES

"REFLECTIONS ON THE PASTOR'S BOOTH"

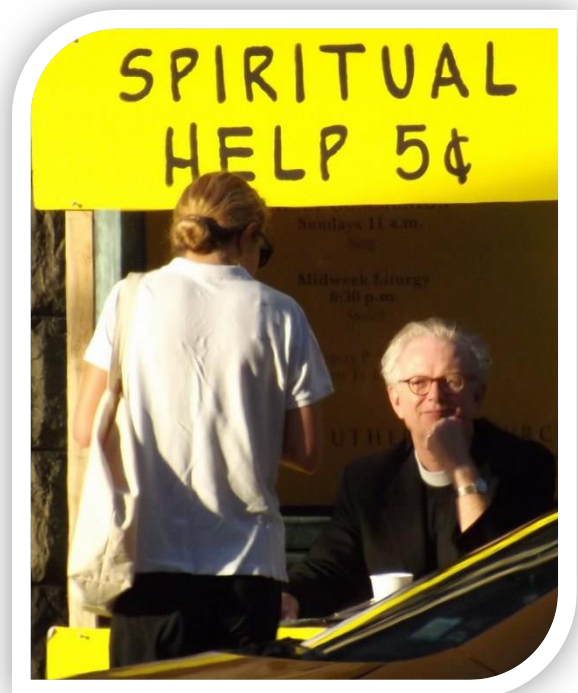
By Reverend Gregory P. Fryer, Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, New York, NY

New Yorkers are endlessly fascinating to me. Indeed, humanity is endlessly fascinating to me. I was young once, and now I am old. So I have experienced many of the stages of life that those passing by are going through. I like each one of the passersby. I try to imagine what they are going through. I love to see children skipping by. I love elderly folks pushing their walkers, hurrying to get across the street before the light changes. I remember being fit and strong, like many of the people I see. I remember my times in the hospital, recovering, trying to regain strength, like many of the people I see. I wonder about the jobs of the passersby. Do they have a good boss? Do they feel up to their responsibilities or do they feel overmatched? I wonder about their homes and families. I wonder about those who have lost their heart to somebody, or would like to because they are lonely. Even if the passersby do not sit down at my booth, still I am grateful for each one and softly say, "God bless you" to them.

It is quite a responsibility to sit at the Pastor's Booth. As I walk toward church in the morning, I often say a prayer for the Pastor's Booth that day,

asking our heavenly Father for grace and faith and truth to minister to people that day. I ask to listen well and then to answer well. I ask to win souls to Jesus.

Continued



Pastor Caleb Douglas and I sit at the Pastor's Booth on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, from 10:30 AM - noon. We have learned not to sit together at the booth, because we tend to talk theology and passersby then pass on by, too polite to interrupt us. So, I sit there for half the time and then Caleb takes over. He is very good at the Pastor's Booth. I have complete confidence in his ministry to the people at the booth. Caleb is set to leave Immanuel in July to head off for doctoral studies at Marquette University. I count this a blessing for the NALC and for the wider church, that Caleb should serve as a theologian. But we are going to miss him. The people at the Pastor's Booth are going to miss him. Glad to say, Pastor Carol Fryer, my wife, will be joining the staff of our church, carrying on for Caleb. Carol is going to be great at the booth too.

So, New Yorkers walk by with a sense of strength and confidence, but some of them sit down at my booth and burst into tears. That is why I have a box of tissues for them. City people are like all of humanity: we have hopes and dreams, sorrows and setbacks and fears. Pastor Caleb and I wear clerical collars. People know what to expect from us. They know that our job is to give encouragement and guidance to people by speaking of Jesus. That is what we try to do, as helpfully as we can.

And I figure I can pray for anyone. Christians, atheists, Jews, Muslims, all kinds of people sit down at my booth. I have learned to welcome each one and to take delight in them. That is one important transformation coming from this ministry: I have learned not to be intimidated by atheists and folks who are not Lutheran.

Somehow, the Pastor's Booth helps clarify things: I am making myself available to people so that they can tell me what is on their hearts, so that I can speak of Jesus to them and pray for them.

I have been Pastor of this congregation for twenty-seven years now. But it is easier to meet people if I simply sit on the sidewalk. This booth is about availability.

I have been sitting at the Pastor's Booth for two years now. The longer I sit at the booth, the more I find my answers to be scaling themselves down so that I only want to talk of Jesus. "Jesus is everything," I say to people. "Fill your heart with Jesus," I urge people. "Fill your heart with Jesus and then calmly face the events of the day."

It is a solemn thing to sit at the booth. There have been times when I have been haunted by conversations at the booth. I have wondered whether I said the right thing. I have prayed most earnestly that the Lord would accept these conversations and bring good out of them — good for the people involved and good for his kingdom.

Well, that is a good prayer for each of us. At the end of the day, we can offer what we've done to the Lord, in the name of Jesus. We can ask that our heavenly Father repair our mistakes, turn them around, and use them for the up-building of his kingdom. No matter what our work, we can work with confidence knowing that with our God nothing is impossible, and ever our humble work can be useful to him, to whom belongs the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

"WHAT THE GREAT COMMISSION IS ALL ABOUT"

By Reverend Heidi Punt, Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, NC

Member Carolinas Mission District Youth Team, Mission Team, and Executive Committee

NALC Great Commission Society

Mission on the local, national and international level has always been central to my call as Pastor. The Great Commission "to go into all the world, teach, baptize..." (Matthew 28) is not just

theoretical or theological to me. It is where the rubber hits the road! It is where discipleship and biblical authority becomes tangible and real!

Continued

This passion for mission began way back in my teenage years, when God made it abundantly clear that despite all my misguided choices and hurtful events, He loved me. From the moment when His forgiveness and love washed my soul and soothed my whole being I knew that even if I did nothing else in my life, I HAD to let people know that they were loved by Jesus Christ. It wasn't so much a conscious choice as it was a "compelling of the Spirit" (Acts 20:22). There was a fire ignited within me! I didn't know how or where or what to do with this but ultimately it turns out I didn't need to have all those details figured out because God already "knew the plans He had for me" (Proverbs 29:11). In seminary I majored in Missiology, equipping myself with all the "head knowledge" on how to do mission work, (start churches and help revitalize and grow existing congregations). Every call and every congregation served to prepare, empower and equip me to serve Christ more faithfully and love His people more deeply. Aligning myself with the NALC core value to be Mission Driven, was another one of those sparks added to my "fire".

However, throughout the last 16 years or so it seems that I became too busy with "doing church" that I forgot why I was called to ministry in the first place, namely that I HAD to let people know that they were loved by Jesus Christ. (I could go into a deep exegesis of what this love means but in short it is summed up by Jesus himself, "where there is light, there is no darkness." (1 John 1:5). "Feeding the hungry and clothing the naked..." (Matthew 25:35-40) – being the heads, hearts and hands of Christ from within our congregations for the sake of others is what "love" really means.

Because of my church family, the trip to Haiti reminded me of what my call as Pastor was really

all about. As I looked into the eyes of the little children and felt their hands linger in mine, as I heard the resounding singing of the young women and the powerful prayers of the older ladies things became simple and uncomplicated to me. Here were people, God's people – whom He loved, who had never heard that there was such a God who forgives, a God who "gave His only son to die for them so they might have eternal life"... (John 3:16). Many people in Haiti have never heard this, not because they didn't choose to go to church but because they literally do not have the opportunity to hear God's Word preached and proclaimed, the Sacrament shared and given... God had me meet real people with actual breath in their lungs, who do not know that they are loved by God because someone didn't take the great Commission literally.

Thank you dear church family for reminding me what my call is all about! I will not find peace with frivolous excuses or "1st World" reasons why not attending church and faith formation opportunities is ok. It is NOT! I will not find peace knowing that there are people out there who literally do not have the opportunity "to come see how good our Lord is." It is not OK!

My question is this: Will you join me on this mission to be God's hands and feet? Will you get up and go? Will you invite and invite and invite until people just can't say no anymore? The truth is we all have to hear that God loves us... truly, deeply and sincerely.

Courageous Joy, Pastor Heidi Punt

As a member of the NALC's Great Commission Society Pastor Punt will share about "Discernment and Intentionality in Mission" during a breakout session at the NALC 2019 Mission Festival in Indiana.

“MANY MISSIONS, ONE GREAT COMMISSION”

By Rachel Sosebee, NALC Missions Connect Co-leader

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” — Acts 1:8

The Great Commission is for everyone. It is ignited with power and gifts from the Holy Spirit. Unique gifts are present in each congregation, so it is understandable that mission work looks quite different from site to site and mission district to mission district. The NALC rejoices in that diversity in calls and wants to encourage everyone to be Christ’s witnesses in the places God has prepared for them and with the works he has gifted them to do. The NALC has set up specialized mission teams to help support these varied commissions.

One of those teams is the *Great Commission Society*. The work of GCS is to help every congregation have active, intentional relationships supporting a local community ministry, an NALC mission congregation, and a global mission. They have set up a vetting team and an online databank of mission opportunities ranging from overseas missionaries to “local” mission congregations or special projects. This past fall the *Mission Connect Team* was formed to specialize in supporting mission districts in finding the mission that drives them. This team wants to get geeky about being on mission with Jesus and help mission districts plan, get obstacles out of the way, find resources, and connect with like-minded mission leaders

Mission Connect’s major project this year is to call all the mission district deans or mission team leaders. The goal of these phone calls is to find out what’s happening, how’s it happening, what’s needed, and how we can help?

The stories we hear as we make these calls are interesting and inspiring. Not a single mission district is just sitting on their hands. They are full of diversity. Some are more congregationally focused and come together to support each other

in living the Great Commission in their individual congregations. Some are working to plant and support mission congregations in their mission district or region. Some are establishing disaster response warehouses. Some deans are traveling through their mission district to get to know the setting of each of the congregations. Others are working to grow relationships among their congregations and creating learning opportunities for their lay leaders and pastors to establish a network so when the Holy Spirit comes knocking they’re ready to do some rocking. Others, like Atlantic Mission Region, are focusing on growing a culture of discipleship in every congregation in their districts, so together and individually they are living the Great Commission. It is a blessing to hear all these examples of mission and the faithful response all the mission districts have to the Holy Spirit.

To further support churches living into the commission God has given them, Mission Connect’s team members, Pastor Heidi Punt and Mr. Brian Sutton are leading one of the break-out sessions during the Mission Festival in August. Their breakout is for mission leaders looking for encouragement, connection, and intentionality. Pastor Heidi Punt will lead a study of the churches in Revelation and Mr. Brian Sutton will share his experiences and passion in setting up systems that help churches respond to mission opportunities with intentionality. If you are attending the mission festival we hope you will consider attending this break-out session.

The Mission teams of the NALC are full of passionate, gifted people with their own areas of specialization. If you are interested and desire resources to discover your gifts and Great Commissions please contact the Mission Connect’s team or any NALC mission team.

Go with God with joy and peace and power from on high.

Rachel’s email contact: dmi.rachel@gmail.com

THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF THE “Q & A OF DISCIPLESHIP”

Q & A's are the most frequent concerns or questions related to discipleship and discipling. They are addressed by the Atlantic Mission Region's *Renewal and Discipleship Team* (RDT). Answers come from the RDT members who are

all personally involved discipleship leaders though some reflections may come from other Lutheran leaders. See page 13 for more about the Mission Region's RDT members. Read on for a reflection about “Core Competences.”

WHAT ARE “CORE COMPETENCES” OF BEING AN EFFECTIVE FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

*View submitted by Lee Mills, Chair of the AMR Renewal & Discipleship Team
and Lay Leader at Reformation Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA.*

Jesus said to his disciples “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (*Matthew 4:19*). These men were called to Him and to work with Him. To do this, He led them through five areas of growth. They include:

1. **Walking with Jesus** - Jesus makes it clear that only as we are connected to Him will we experience a healthy spiritual life: *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”* —*John 15:5*.
2. **Knowing and living the Scriptures**-The scriptures are God's means of bringing guidance and wise counsel to the life of every believer. The Holy Spirit guides us into knowing and living the truth of the scriptures. As the psalmist said, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* —*Psalms 119:105*.
3. **Participating in community**- The life of discipleship is not meant to be experienced alone. God designed us for community. We can only grow spiritually and be used by God as we are connected to others who love Him.
4. **Engaging with those who do not know Christ**- Every believer is called to engage with people around us where we live, work, study, and play. Each day opens new opportunities for us to be salt and light among those who do not yet know Jesus and to bring hope found only in him.

5. **Reproducing spiritual generations**- Jesus invested in a small group of disciples. As we follow Him, our aim should be to raise others who will also follow Christ and who will then help others as well. *Psalm 145:4* assures us that, *“one generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts”*.

Before we immerse ourselves in these growth areas, there is something even more foundational. Before we do anything, comes belief that our life in Christ is grounded in *whose we are and who we are becoming in Christ Jesus*. The true test of life in Christ is our *character*: the extent to which we are a reflection of God's Spirit to a watching world.

There is a wonderful NavPress booklet, **“Five Traits of a Christ-follower,”** that talks about each of the above core competencies. Each section has six devotions written by experienced disciple makers. As I have used this booklet as part of my daily devotions, I found myself growing in both my capacity and enthusiasm for following Christ. I highly recommend this inexpensive booklet as a wonderful resource to those who are just beginning their spiritual journey as well as those who are more experienced who periodically need a refresher as to Christ's purpose for this journey. I was so impressed with the booklet's content that I have purchased a number of copies to give to individuals as I have the opportunity to share my journey with Christ with them. *Find more information about this little book on page 12.*

The Renewal & Discipleship Team is interested in hearing from church members, lay leaders and pastors regarding discipleship and discipling questions and concerns. Since there is no one way of discipling, the team is willing to share what has produced fruit for others and to provide insight to begin a discipling ministry in your congregation or your small group. Email your questions or comments; they are welcome. Send your email to news.atlantic.nalc@gmail.com or contact one of the RDT members noted on page 13).

2019 ATLANTIC MISSION REGION ANNUAL CONVOCATION AND LUTHERANS FOR LIFE CONFERENCE

10:30 AM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 3:30 PM



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 Philadelphia Road, Joppa, MD 21085

THEME: DID GOD REALLY SAY...?

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba

The Rev. Scott Licht

The Rev. Mark Chavez

The Rev. Dr. Dennis DiMauro

Dr. Robert Benne



Pre-event

CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN...

FRIDAY, 9:30-11:30 AM

Pre-event

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN

Friday 10-11 AM

Time to select your congregation's voting delegate!



FIRST ANNUAL ATLANTIC MISSION REGION THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE



When: Wednesday, September 11

Where: Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church,
560 Freeport Road in Lebanon, PA
(Fellowship hall across road from church)

Time: 9:00 AM Registration, fellowship
and refreshments
9: AM Conference commences
3:30 PM day-long event concludes

Cost: \$20/person, lunch included

Registration deadline: September 1

See Resources on page 12 for book information.

Presenter: Bishop Carol S. Hendrix will be discussing Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together*. Please read the book beforehand and bring your copy for reference and note taking. There will be a Q&A session with Bishop Hendrix after lunch.

The registration form, hotel information and flyer are available on our website (News & Events tab) at www.atlantic-nalc.org.

Questions? Please contact Robin Harris at rjhh67@verizon.net.

HAPPENINGS IN THE ATLANTIC MISSION REGION

“REVEREND M. CALEB DOUGLAS”

His Ordination to the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament

written by Rev. Gregory Fryer, Immanuel Lutheran Church, New York, NY

Rev. M. Caleb Douglas was ordained to the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament and installed as Assistant Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in New York City on Sunday afternoon February 10, 2019. The liturgy was set for 4 PM that afternoon in hope that friends and clergy could attend following their Sunday morning responsibilities, and that indeed happened. Friends and colleagues from both the Metropolitan New York area and from Pennsylvania were able to take part in this great ordination liturgy.

The liturgy was planned with the usual research, care, and sound pastoral judgment of Pastor Caleb. Bishop Bradosky gave strong, joyful, and gentle leadership to the liturgy. He impressed many of the clergy for whom this was their first time in his presence.

Bishop Bradosky preached at Immanuel for the morning liturgy and theologian David S. Yeago from our North American Lutheran Seminary preached at the ordination service. Both of these fine

sermons can be found on the Immanuel website: www.immanuelnyc.org/sermons_list.

It is with mixed emotion that we welcomed Pastor Douglas and his family then bid farewell as they departed for Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Caleb begins five years of doctoral study in theology. All who know Caleb firmly believe that it is a blessing for the NALC and the wider church, and a cause of hope for the future, that he should serve as a theologian in the church.



Bishop John Bradosky placing the stole for the 1st time on Pastor Douglas



Pastor Douglas, his wife Lynnae (also a NALS graduate), and their three boys, Elias, Nathaniel, and Joel

AMR CHANGES, WELCOME & NOTATIONS

The Rev. Kerry P. Maurer, received into the NALC, installed as Interim Pastor, St. Luke LC, Bloomsburg, PA

The Rev. Mark A. Metze, installed as Pastor, Annapolis Lutheran Church, Edgewater, MD

The Rev. Daniel M. Schaefer, received into the NALC, installed as Interim Pastor, St. John's LC, Birdsboro, PA

The Rev. Mark A. Werner, called as Pastor, Emanuel LC, Elmer, NJ; installation will be in September

The Rev. Christopher A. Milarch, Retired, Emmanuel LC, State College, PA

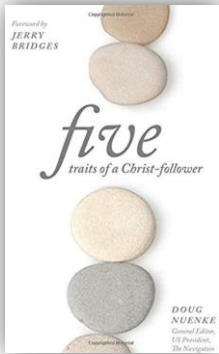
Michael Grube, received as Parish Deacon at Holy Cross ELC, Nazareth, PA

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER BEING SOUGHT AT ANNAPOLIS LC, EDGEWATER, MD. If you can provide names or connections for this position please contact Pr. Mark Metze at mark.metze@yahoo.com.

RESOURCES TO GROW IN CHRIST

FIVE TRAITS OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

Editor: Doug Nuenke



This book is noted on page 9, in the “Core Competencies.”

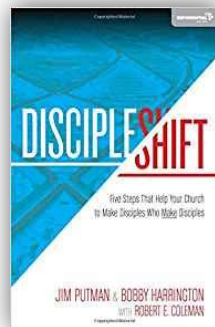
What distinguishes a follower of Jesus? The contributors to *Five Traits of a Christ Follower*—each with a long history of knowing Jesus and making him known—see five “**core competencies**” as critical to

authentic discipleship; growing in relationship with God, knowing and living from the Scriptures, engaging those who don’t know Christ, living in community with other believers, and equipping others to follow Christ. Spend one month with a master class of disciple-makers, and find yourself growing in your capacity, and your enthusiasm, for following Christ.

DISCIPLES SHIFT —Five Steps That Help Your Church Make Disciples Who Make Disciples

Authors: Jim Putman & Bobby Harrington

Over the last thirty years, many influential church leaders and church planters in America have adopted various models for reaching unchurched people. An “attractional” model will seek to attract people to a local church. Younger leaders may advocate a more “missional” approach, in which believers live and work among unchurched people and intentionally seek to serve like Christ. While each of these



approaches have merit, something is still missing, something even more fundamental to the mission of the church: *discipleship*.

Making disciples—helping people to trust and follow Jesus—is the church’s God-given mandate. Devoted disciples attract people outside the church because of the change others see in their Christ-like lives. And discipleship empowers Christians to be more like Christ as they intentionally develop relationship with non-believers.

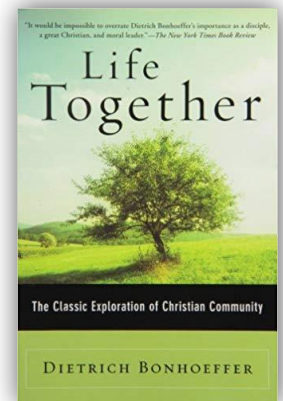
DiscipleShift walks you through five key “shifts” that churches must make to refocus on the biblical mission of discipleship. These intentional changes will attract the world and empower your church members to be salt and light in their communities.

LIFE TOGETHER —The Classic Exploration of Christian Community

Author: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned Christian minister, professor, and author of *The Cost of Discipleship* recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups, *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.

(See *Theological Conference*, page 10.)



Have you found a good resource for growing in Christ? Share that resource so others may grow in Him too!

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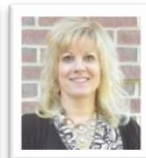
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BUILDING BLOCKS OF GROWING IN CHRIST

Submitted by members of Reformation Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA

Mid-2017 Reformation's LC's Mission Team had the idea of having members of our congregation write a reflection on 1 or 2 verses from each Sunday's lectionary readings.

The reflection would up to 250 words and be posted on the back page of our weekly bulletin to read before the worship service and to ponder during the coming week. Since each quarter has 13 Sundays, 13 people agreed to be participants on the discipleship journey writing 1 reflection 4 times a year. The writers have grown to love writing them... its a journey for



them and a journey to help every reader grow closer to our Triune God.

Six congregations are now also using these reflective building blocks each week (we call them BBs). With the thought of expanding Reformation's ministry to be God's blessing of "growing in Christ" even wider, these BBs will be posted on the Atlantic Mission Region's website for you to download. Use them in your congregation or personally. Each quarter's "BBs" will be found at www.atlantic-nalc.org, under the "Devotions" tab beginning July 19, 2019.

PLEASE COPY AND SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WIDELY

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THE NEXT ATLANTIC VINE

Publicize past or upcoming congregational events or ministry programs, ask questions, or share a story in the next issue by



TUESDAY OCTOBER 29, 2019

Email news.atlantic.nalc@gmail.com

**WHERE IS GOD SENDING YOU?
WILL YOU GO?**

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

— Isaiah 6:8

