

ATLANTIC MISSION REGION CONVOCATION AND LUTHERANS FOR LIFE CONFERENCE

BY ROBIN HARRIS, AMR ADMINISTRATOR

"It happened again." I sat there, stunned, with my paper-jammed printer in my lap. "Gemechis Buba is stuck in Africa."

That was what I and the rest of the 2019 Convocation planning team and the staff at Trinity Lutheran Church in Joppa, MD heard in the mid-afternoon on Thursday, October 17. There was no way Dr. Buba would be at the Convocation in Maryland the next day when he was slated to preach at the Eucharist and give the plenary session. Again!

Our God is so good! Within hours of receiving this news Dean David McGettigan, along with Pr. Scott Licht from Lutherans for Life and members of the Convocation planning team, did some quick thinking and rearranged who was doing what which resulted in an exceptional Convocation and Lutherans for Life Conference.



Dean David McGettigan



Rev. Scott Licht

Approximately 100 people gathered on Friday and Saturday, October 18-19 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Joppa, Maryland for the Atlantic Mission Region's annual Convocation and Lutherans for Life's northeast conference whose theme was "**Did God Really Say...?**"

Friday was a day packed with activity. The Convocation started with gathering and fellowship over lunch then officially opened with a contemporary liturgy of the Eucharist with Pr. Scott Licht from Lutherans for Life preaching (on the fly). Following the service was the annual business meeting during which the proposed 2020 Ministry Plan was approved. We also heard reports from the four Mission Districts, the Renewal & Discipleship Team, and Mary Bates from Disaster Response.

Following the business meeting we stepped outside into the beautiful October sunshine and "Stuffed the Truck" for Disaster Response. We also were overjoyed to tour and witness the blessing and commissioning of the new, fully functional Disaster Response tool trailer that was parked in the lot for all to see. It was a bittersweet moment for all involved when Judy Mills handed over the keys to Mary Bates. All the Stuff the Truck donations that were brought to Joppa were taken to a Disaster Response warehouse at St. Matthew in Middle River, MD.

Next, the attendees were blessed to hear Gary Pecuch from Faith Webbing give the plenary session on intergenerational discipling entitled "Outcome-Based Youth Ministry Faith/Ministry Skills." His presentation was captivating and full of energy, information and useful ideas for congregations of all sizes and age composition.

After a wonderful supper together the Convocation participants ended their evening by breaking off into separate Mission District meetings to have conversation with their Dean and to get to know each other as well.

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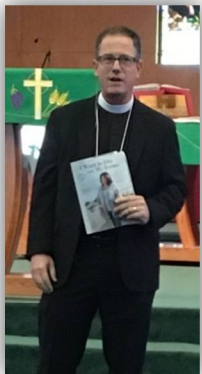
Each Mission District did a short Bible study then held discussions on fellowship ideas, joys or concerns they have and talked about ways to mutually support each other. The day ended with a service of Prayer at the Close of the Day within each meeting.

Saturday was all about Lutherans for Life. There were two sessions in the morning. First, Pr. Scott Licht presented *"Four Little Words."* Following his presentation Heather Ruesch spoke on *"My Body, My Life, My Value in Christ."* Both sessions were well received.

The AMR Convocation closed at noon following the traditional "Service of the Word" liturgy which featured a very jet lagged Gemechis Buba as preacher. Even though he was tired, Dr. Buba preached the Word, as he always does, with great conviction and power.

Following lunch the LFL conference continued with two more sessions: Pr. Dennis DiMauro spoke on the *"Maryland Physician-Assisted Suicide Bill."* He was followed by Pr. Mark Chavez who spoke very honestly and movingly about his wife Jocelyn, and the blessings they shared during her final years in *"Abundant Blessings in Dying and Death."* The LFL conference closed mid-afternoon on Saturday.

Pr. Jay Jackson and staff at Trinity were wonderful hosts. The Convocation planning team was relieved that all the last minute rearranging went as well as it did. But we knew we shouldn't have doubted –the LORD was in control the whole time.



Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro



Rev. Michael Salemk



Deaconess Dr.
Chrissie Gillet



Gary Pecuch



Heather Ruesch



Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba



Rev. Mark Chavez



The impromptu ARM convocation choir



"Stuff The Truck"
Flood buckets,
prayer shawls, tools,
blankets and more.
Items doubled in
volume just after
photo taken.

Lee & Judy Mills,
Mary Bates,
Joan & Ken
Hollinger



"1ST NALC DISASTER RESPONSE TOOL TRAILER..." Completed, Blessed and Commissioned!

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

Friday, October 18, 2019 was an occasion to celebrate with the commissioning of the **NALC's First Disaster Response Tool Trailer.**

The project began with affirmation of a prayer to "do something for Lent" vs. giving something up. After conversation with our NALC Disaster Response Coordinator Mary Bates a tool trailer project was decided upon and approved.

Along with support from the Atlantic Mission Region, Reformation Lutheran Church (RLC), Lancaster, PA sponsored the project with members Judy & Lee Mills as coordinators. Having no prior experience in this arena the Holy Spirit was in command at every step even though there were a few holdups and hiccups along the way. In the end, all that was needed was provided.

This project was fully funded thanks to the blessing and gracious outpouring of our Atlantic Mission Region (AMR) congregations, plus individual members, as well as NALC individual members and congregations from other Mission Regions across the U.S. The project's completion was just under the estimated cost of \$16,000. In fact, the project went so well, that much excitement has grown for the desire across the NALC to construct at least 4 more NALC



*Joan & Ken Hollinger, Pr. Luke Seamon, Mary Bates, Judy & Lee Mills,
Joan Schaum, Terry Miller, Fred Lepley at Reformation L.C..
Missing: Crystal Lepley, Jeff Schaum, Chas Stroup & Sandy Tippitt.*

Disaster Response Tool Trailers to reach more regions across the U.S. All organizational, planning and implementation details will be forwarded to other teams to build on and improve the initial ground work and experience of the Lancaster team.

This was a huge project and step in faith, yet members of RLC and the AMR supported its development and prayed for project success. RLC's team worked together well, yet another note of recognition is necessary, that is Ken Hollinger who should also be considered a coordinator. Using his past experience, Ken oversaw the full tool selection plus personally designed and built the interior cargo trailer's modifications.

This team humbly and joyously continues to celebrate how the Holy Spirit walked ahead of us each step of the way as it all came together. We are ever grateful for the support, encouragement and blessing we received. Most of all it was a blessings and privilege to serve our Lord in mission this way.

For more project information about the build contact news.atlantic.nalc@gmail.com.



Turning the keys over to Mary Bates

ATLANTIC MISSION REGION WOMEN'S CONFERENCE "GRACEFULLY LISTENING"

Submitted by Robin Harris, AMR Administrator

Forty-four women attended this year's fall gathering of the Atlantic Mission Region's Women of the NALC on the morning of October 18 at Trinity ELC in Joppa, MD.

We enjoyed a lovely yogurt bar, fresh fruit, juice and coffee as we mingled to get to know each other. Amy Werner, our WNALC facilitator who is from Emanuel Lutheran, Elmer, NJ, led the opening, the singing, and also shared ideas of how to be more involved in the Women of NALC. Then attendees were gathered together by their mission districts to meet each other and become better acquainted.

Deaconess Dr. Chrissie Gillet, Word of Hope Director of Lutherans for Life, was the presenter. Phoebe, her therapy dog, was also in attendance. Her presentation was entitled "Gracefully Listening." Chrissie had us thinking about how to truly listen to others; what it looks like and sounds like. She had us break into small groups to practice being a better listener. She also touched

on understanding identity development in younger and older generations, and incorporating a Christian identity. In the closing section of her presentation, she talked about the perception of suffering in adulthood, including the Theology of Glory, Theology of the Cross, and the Christian response to suffering.

The time passed quickly and attendees received a handout that could easily be used for a Bible Study. How grateful we were for a wonderful start to the day!

As a side note, there was also a men's Bible Study Friday morning led by Pr. Michael Salemink from Lutherans for Life.



Deaconess Dr. Chrissie Gillet and therapy dog Phoebe

FIRST AMR THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

LIFE TOGETHER — THE CLASSIC EXPLORATION OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Bishop Carol S. Hendrix (ELCA retired), Presenter

By Pr. W. Bennett Harris, St. John & Zoar Lutheran Churches, Fredericksburg & Lebanon, PA



Bishop Hendrix & Pastor Harris

The Atlantic Mission Region held its first Theological Conference on September 11, 2019. The conference was based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together."

The presenter was former Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA, The Right Rev. Carol S. Hendrix. Bishop Hendrix led us in a lively and productive discussion on how we can apply Bonhoeffer's experience in the Church of today. In attendance were 34 clergy and laity and her presentation was very well received.

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The conference was hosted by Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lebanon, PA. It was open to all area Lutheran pastors (NALC, LCMC, LC-MS, ELCA) as well as lay members. Attending were pastors from the NALC and the ELCA and a number of lay members.

Bonhoeffer's book is a reflection on his experience of Christian community and "a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years. The book gives great practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical words. *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship."



Theological Conference Attendees



"GOD LOVES LIFE!"

NALC's Annual Life Conference – January 23

The Annual March for Life – January 24

By the Reverend Dr. Dennis Di Mauro, Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrenton, VA

*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.* —Psalm 139:13-18



God Loves Life! The psalmist tells us about the intimate way God has formed each and every one of us! And because God loves life, we are called to cherish and defend it. Lutherans have attended the *March for Life* in Washington, DC since it began in 1974. In 1998, *Lutherans for Life* started an organized presence at the march, beginning with a communion worship service at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in nearby Springfield, VA.

Again this year, NALC Life Ministries has planned a life-filled two days to celebrate God's precious gift of life. It will all begin on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1100 Philadelphia Rd, Joppa, MD 21085, where the NALC will hold its 4th annual Life Conference. .

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LIFE CONFERENCE AGENDA – THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2020

- 12:00 pm *Free Lunch* Attendance not required. If attending please do provide a head count to rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com
- 1:00 pm *Welcome* Rebecka Andrae
- Opening Devotions* The Rev. Christopher Porter, Life Conference Chaplain
- 1:20 pm *"Pain Perception in the Developing Human"*
Dr. Sheila Page, Associate Scholar, board certified in neuro-musculoskeletal medicine & osteopathic manipulative therapy
- Q & A*
- 2:05 pm *"How Suicide Threatens Our Veterans"*
Rev. Leslie Haines, Executive Director for Lutheran Military, Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.
- Q & A*
- 2:50 pm *Break*
- 3:10 pm *Speaker TBA*
- Q & A*
- 4:15 pm *Divine Service* The Rev. Dr. David Wendel,
Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism, presiding
The Rev. Christopher Porter, conference chaplain
- 5:15 pm *Conference Concludes*

MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, DC -- FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

March for Life Tentative Agenda (Final details to be announced)

- 8:30 am *National Memorial Service for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers*
at DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St., NW (18th and D St) Washington, DC 20006.
All clergy are invited to vest and process at the service.
Participating clergy must arrive by 8:00 a.m.; the color is white.
- 10:30 am *Walk toward **12th Street & Madison Drive NW**, Washington, DC 20004*
(between the museums of American History and Natural History) where we will meet with other Lutherans. Look for the corner with the grassy area and all the Lutheran banners such as NALC, Lutheran For Life, LCMS.
(We will begin to congregate on the corner of 12th & Madison around 11 a.m.)
- 11:00 – 11:45 am *Musical opening*
- 12:00 pm *Rally Program*
- 1:00 pm *March up Constitution Avenue to Supreme Court and Capitol Building*
- 3:30 pm *March for Life concludes*

By marching, we follow a proud tradition of Lutheran pro-life awareness started by the reformer Dr. Martin Luther in the 16th Century. He wrote, "He [God] is not hostile to children, as we are. But God emphasizes His word to such an extent that He sometimes gives offspring even to those who do not desire it, yes even hate it . . .

How great, therefore, the wickedness of human nature is! How manykill and expel tender fetuses, although procreation is the work of God." NALC Life Ministries continues the strong pro-life passion of its denominational founder. Its mission today is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices *For Life* across the life span...from conception to our final breath here on earth. The March for Life is a way of publically

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proclaiming that message to assure life for those who are most vulnerable. And the march is also about sharing of the gospel of Jesus' forgiveness to all, including those men and women who have lost hope through their involvement in an abortion.

Registration is not required for the NALC LIFE CONFERENCE. However, a headcount is

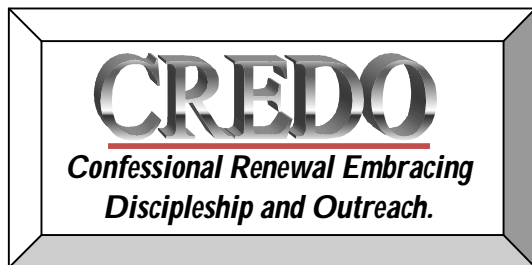
especially appreciated for those planning to join us for our complimentary lunch on Thursday at noon. **To register for lunch** and for additional conference details, please contact Rebecka Andrae, chairperson of the NALC Life Ministries Team, by calling/texting 724.787.7780 or emailing rebeckaandrae@yahoo.com

SERIES CONTINUATION -- "Q & A OF DISCIPLESHIP"

WHAT DOES CREDO STAND FOR AND WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

By Lee Mills, AMR Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Chair

The Q & A series are the most frequent concerns or questions related to renewal or discipleship. They are addressed by the Atlantic Mission Region's (AMR) Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team (RDM Team). Answers almost always come from RDM Team members who are all personally and actively involved discipleship leaders. The response to this question is being submitted by Lee Mills, RDM Team Chair and member of Reformation Lutheran in Lancaster, PA, with input from his pastor who is also an RDM Team member, Pr. Luke Seamon.



The "CREDO Initiative for Congregations" was introduced in August to all members of the NALC at the 2019 Annual Convocation in Indianapolis, IN. The material was presented at a Life-to-Life workshop led by Pastor Eric Riesen, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio. Pastor Riesen has chaired the Life-to-Life Discipleship Team for six years.

CREDO, an acronym for "Confessional Renewal Embracing Discipleship and Outreach," casts the

NALC's Discipleship Team's vision for faithful, biblical and confessional discipleship throughout the NALC. Most congregations should have a copy of both the summary of the CREDO initiative and the description of how it is intended to be implemented. If you have not seen it or do not have a copy readily available, you can view or download it in its entirety on our AMR website at <https://www.atlantic-nalc.org/making-disciples/credo-initiative/>

Pr. Luke Seamon, took the CREDO vision and presented it as follows as a simple three step path forward not only for Reformation Lutheran but also for the AMR's team. Those three steps are:

Step 1: A Pastor begins to work with a personal "discipleship guide" to strengthen his/her own personal commitment and practice of a life of faithfully following Christ in his/her vocation. The guide will walk with him/her and the congregation through the process.

Step 2: A Pastor gathers a Leadership Team (around 2 to 5 people) who commit to meeting regularly for 12-18 months. Together they "develop a life of mutual trust to engage in faith-forming discussion" (CREDO). This team will then focus on "being disciplined," that is, affirm the basics of faith in their own lives, as well as model skills to "make disciples." After the 12-18 months,

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with goals accomplished, each team member will then come alongside others to help them intentionally follow Christ and lead them to model the basics of faith in their own lives to then make more disciples.

Step 3: The members of the Leadership Team will eventually serve as leaders for additional Life-to-Life groups (or CREDO teams) in the congregation.

So, three simple steps. But that leads to the question of how does a congregation actually get started with a discipleship ministry and process?

The Renewal and Discipleship Ministry Team has now developed a workshop which has recently been presented at a Southern District congregation where it was very well received. The RDM team is ready, willing and able to repeat this presentation to other interested pastors, and/or lay leaders individually, or better yet, together. I encourage you to contact the RDM team at lmills.email@comcast.net. A RDM team member will quickly get back to you.

WOMEN'S RETREAT – "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

Sponsored by St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, PA, January 17-19, 2020

Women of the Atlantic Mission Region are invited to join the women of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, PA to discover examples of God's perfect timing through the bible stories of Esther, Queen of Persia, and Joseph, Son of Jacob (Israel).

Rooted in scripture and based on a novel by Joyce Landorf entitled "*Joseph*," the retreat's focus includes:

- Differences between our timing and God's
- What patience and self-control have to do with timing
- How 5 women in Joseph's life influenced his character to become the Prince of Egypt
- The influence we potentially have in another's life



"For such a time as this.." Esther 4:14

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..." Genesis 50:20

Location: Byers Conference Center Roxbury Holiness Camp in Orrstown, PA (www.roxburycamp.com).

Cost: pricing ranges from \$145-\$160 depending on registration date; 2 nights with meals included.

The January 17-19 faith based event allows for a time away from your daily routine for renewal, enrichment and rest for your body, mind and spirit.

In His Time:

Practicing Patience and Self Control.

Come and discover examples of God's perfect timing through the stories of lives of Esther, and Joseph, "For such a time as this..."

To answer questions or for more detailed information regarding the schedule, contact Amy Ewbank at 717-307-5673 or Marian Lefevre at 717-732-6904 or 717-695-1470.

OUTCOME-BASED YOUTH MINISTRY / FAITH MINISTRY SKILLS LIST

From "The Lamp," Newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church, Winchester, VA – Volume 55

The following commentary is taken from a sermon by Pastor Christopher Porter, Advent Lutheran Church, Winchester, VA on Sunday, October 20, 2019 which was then highlighted in Advent's newsletter, "The Lamp." (Content shared with permission.)

Outcome-Based Youth Ministry asks the question, "What faith skills do our young people need to acquire in order to be prepared for a life of service and devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?" Said another way, by the time a student graduates from High School, what faith and ministry assets do we want to be built into our children and youth?

Our intention is to partner with parents and young people in developing a personal ministry plan for those children and youth who have that desire. The following is a listing of Faith and Ministry Skills we are prepared to build into young people in our congregation:

UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS

Developing Spiritual Disciplines

1. Know our purpose in life and pray through it daily
2. Understand your God-given job description and process your day
3. Develop a meaningful prayer life and an everyday prayer sheet
4. Learn a Personal Bible Study Method (Be in a regular Faith Growth Group)
5. Understand the Acts 1:8 Service Philosophy
"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."
6. Understand the Christian View of Finances
7. Develop a Discipline of Fasting (not necessarily food)

Personal Enhancement of People Skills

1. Intentional Relationship Building Skills

2. Faith Webbing: understand the importance of, and how to develop a personal faith web
3. Create an 'I Believe' Statement
4. Develop written personal stands to live by
5. Develop a personal mission statement/direction
6. Develop a personal ministry plan
7. Develop an attitude of appreciation and understand its benefits
8. Cultivate an ability to be visionary in your thinking

How to spend time with people the way Jesus did

1. Understand the concept of love languages and become aware of your primary love language
2. Understand the basics of personality temperaments and identify your temperament.
3. Develop a biblical self-esteem
4. Be able to introduce yourself
5. Be trained to give faith-based talks
6. Give and receive compliments
7. Find your million dollar mate

Faith Foundation How-To's

1. Develop Bible usage skills
2. Learn how to facilitate a Bible Study
3. Learn how to create and give a devotion
4. Develop a prayer journal/notebook
5. Learn how to read scripture out loud
6. Learn how to open/close a meeting in prayer
7. Learn how to say or lead table grace
8. Recognize God Sightings
9. Learn how to lead a service project
10. Learn to put together a social event
11. Learn how to put together a vesper/camp fire
12. Learn how to verbalize your faith
13. Learn delegation skills
14. Develop 'Go' thinking
15. Learn a decision-making method
16. Learn how to lead songs, create faith based skits and lead games.

For more information related to this topic visit the website of Gary & Laurie Pecuch at <https://www.faithwebbing.com/>

DISCIPLING MINISTRY FOCUS SHARED BY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, JOPPA, MD

WHAT'S YOUR "NEXT STEP" TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS?

Any worthwhile goal requires planning and hard work. Our mission as Christians is to be a disciple who makes other disciples. How are you doing with the goal of being a disciple of Jesus? Here are some goals you might want to shoot for and a sample action plan.



GAIN MORE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Make a Plan

- Choose a Bible study to attend.

Get to Work and Stick to It

- Sign up to attend and/or contact the leader of the study. Invite a friend to attend so you can hold each other accountable and celebrate your successes.



BE SURE THAT GOD IS FIRST IN YOUR LIFE

Make a Plan

- Evaluate your family's schedule and calculate how much time you spend in these areas:
Work
Sleep
Entertainment and Social Media
Church attendance or activities
Athletics and children's activities
Service to others

Get to Work and Stick to It

- Take an honest look and see what percentage of time you give to God. Make adjustments as necessary.
- Work with another family to hold each other accountable and celebrate your successes.



DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Make a plan

- Commit to pray a certain time(s) and then hold yourself accountable.
Weekly
3 days a week
Daily
2 times daily
In all things

Get to Work and Stick to it

- Decrease distractions at set times of the day.
- Increase the time and effort you put into your prayer life as you accomplish each step.



SPREAD THE LOVE OF GOD TO OUR COMMUNITY

Make a Plan

- Look around and find opportunities to provide for genuine needs in our community. Ask what kind of help would be useful in those situations.
- Look at the church calendar and see what events are coming up.

Get to Work and Stick to It

- Connect that need to an existing outreach program or start a new one.
- Invite a friend to an event held at church so they can meet people.

.- THE FIRST STEP IS THE HARDEST -

ATLANTIC MISSION REGION NALC DEAN'S GATHERING & DISTRICT UPDATES

BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NALC'S DEANS MEETING

From Our Region's Deans

The North American Lutheran Church Deans Gathering was held in Columbus, OH, November 12-14. In addition to time in God's Word led by Bishop Dan Selbo, there were reports from the executive staff and introductions of some 30 plus deans and assistant deans. Bishop Selbo presented his vision, direction, and organization of the NALC that included time for questions and answers. He laid out a 10 point draft proposal plan. Two of the ten include:

- The continuation of the NALC to be a church body committed to developing "disciple-making congregations and cultures."
- A body of believers who are committed to increasing our mission outreach and congregational multiplications efforts.

Having only begun his tenure 6 weeks earlier, and in addition to a draft plan, Bishop Selbo presented mission district challenges plus some expectations and responsibilities of regional and district deans. Along with business, it was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and sharing of various situations in different parts of the country in terms of individual ministry and the challenges of NALC congregations. There was a high level of excitement and enthusiasm with how the Holy Spirit continues to lead and work in and throughout our NALC affirming the NALC's "core values."

CENTRAL MISSION DISTRICT

The Central Mission District will gather for its annual meeting on *Saturday, May 2, 2020* at St. John Lutheran Church, Birdsboro, PA. Details to be announced.

NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT

The Northeast Mission District will gather for its annual meeting on *Saturday, May 9, 2020*. Details to be announced.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

The Southern District of the Atlantic Mission Region is comprised of 14 churches spread throughout Maryland and Virginia. We met Friday evening during the gathering of the Region at Trinity Lutheran in Joppa, MD. Not all 14 churches attended but we had representation from seven. Each church representative shared what they saw as their congregation's strengths and their challenges. Each church presented a unique setting and circumstances with their own ministry strengths and challenges. The Southern District has congregations of all sizes. The strengths generally seem to center around services to the community. The challenges centered around including the next generation in the ministry of these various congregations. The challenge for the District will be to find out how we can support and encourage each other with in our particular callings.

The Southern District will meet *Saturday, May 16, 2020*. We will continue to address how we might work together not only as individual congregations but also as a District within the larger church setting and the world at large. The place of the meeting for next May has yet to be determined. More details to come.

John Kulczycki, Assistant Dean
Jerrie Rosenfeld, Lay Representative

WESTERN MISSION DISTRICT

Save the date for the Western Mission District Meeting: *Saturday, June 6, 2020* at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Millersburg, PA. More details to follow.

DISTRICT CHAPLAIN PRESENTED WITH MILITARY HONOR



-- Photo: *The Elizabethtown Advocate*, 9/26/2019 edition.

The Rev. Paul Hansen (pictured on the right), Spiritual Care Associate at the Masonic Village, Elizabethtown and a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves, 336th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, has been awarded the Four Chaplains Medal. The award gives special recognition to chaplains who best exemplify courage, sacrifice, teamwork and sacred values in dealing with soldiers, commanders, families and the U.S. Army. Pastor Hansen accepted the award on September 4, 2019 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Award recipients must have demonstrated collegial selfless behavior while rendering religious support to the military community, regardless of faith or race, in keeping with the spirit of the Four Chaplains' sacrifice. The award is a decoration approved by an Act of Congress on July 14, 1960. Its design commemorates the actions of the Four Chaplains who gave their lives in the line of duty on February 3, 1943.

(See more regarding the Four Chaplains Medal at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Chaplains%27_Medal).

Pr. Hansen was the previous interim pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Birdsboro, PA.

Congratulations Pastor Hansen on receiving such a distinguished honor and award. Thank you for serving our military and members of the NALC.

"SPECIAL" ATLANTIC MISSION REGION BENEVOLENT ENVELOPE

*Submitted by Linda Shipman,
St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, PA*

Have you ever thought about including a "special" Atlantic Mission Region Benevolent Envelope" in the monthly church envelope box that you use? One congregation in our region does!

After receiving a special appeal letter from the Mission Region earlier this year, St. Timothy's Stewardship Committee - with the approval of the Church Council - contacted the Church Budget Envelope Co. (who provides the offering envelopes for them) and asked if they could put an additional envelope in their monthly mailing marked especially for the Atlantic Mission Region.

Both the Stewardship Committee and Council thought that the members of the congregation should have an opportunity to give to the local Mission Region.

NALC LIFE MINISTRIES

Join the FB members at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1146397988733201/>

AMR CONGREGATIONAL INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Find the weekly congregational schedule along with suggested intercessory prayers at <https://www.atlantic-nalc.org/congregations/intercessory-prayers-for-our-congregations/>

RESOURCES TO GROW IN CHRIST

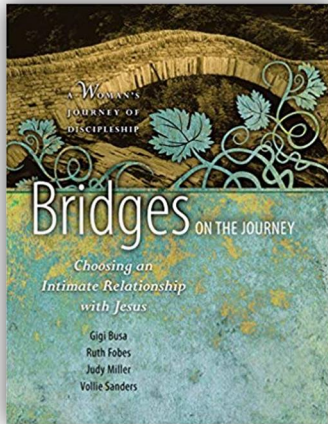
BRIDGES ON THE JOURNEY...

Choosing an Intimate Relationship with Jesus

by Gigi Busa, Ruth Fobes, Judy Miller, Vollie Sanders

Bridges on the Journey is book one of a three book series focusing on "A Woman's Journey of Discipleship."

Book one introduces you to a life in Christ, to form habits and attitudes that create intimacy with God and spiritual growth. The book leads to a start on the right path to establish a lifetime relationship with Jesus as one learns the practice of spiritual disciplines.



A Woman's Journey of Discipleship is more than a Bible study series; it is a process through which women learn how to walk daily with the Lord and pass on to others that same discipling vision Jesus gave His disciples. Other titles in the series include book 2, "*Crossroads on the Journey*," and book 3, "*Friends on the Journey*."

A current group using this first book found that if one has been involved with Bible study, a few aspects early in this book might seem elementary. However, just like using "An Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism" by Joseph Stump, one uses the study to go beyond the surface digging deeper into that which grows our spiritual foundation. This group gave the book a thumbs up! These books are excellent guide books to launch one on the road to discipleship ministry. They may be used in a group or independently.

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY WITH BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (BSF)



BSF is a global, in-depth Bible study producing passionate commitment to Christ as His disciples in the body of His Church. BSF's vision is to

magnify God and mature His people by illustrating that Christ is the only path to eternal life and why.

Through study of Scripture, BSF seeks to inspire, equip, and engage persons to grow a personal deep relationship with Christ. The studies focus on the authority of Scripture, while growing in what we know as the 5 Solas: Scripture alone, faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone, and to the glory of God alone. Attendees are encouraged to spend daily time in the Word, to grow, know and understand the revealed Word, keeping focus on Christ through the Old Testament prophets and New Testament victory over sin and evil, redeeming those who believe in Him. BSF teaches how to apply the Word in today's world, and how to model and share Christian life as His disciples.

BSF groups meet September to May for about 30 weekly lessons. The 2019-2020 study is entitled "*Acts and the Letters of Paul*." There are 10 studies in all with groups for women, men and children.

Attending BSF is endorsed by the full AMR Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team. See more about BSF, its core values, and statement of faith, plus *find a class in your area* on their website at <https://www.bsfindernational.org/>

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THE NEXT ATLANTIC VINE

DEADLINE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Emailnews.atlantic.nalc@gmail.com

Publicize district, congregational or ministry events/programs, ask questions, or share a story!

COPY AND SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WIDELY



The 2nd chapter of 1st Peter speaks to healthy spiritual growth that comes through the love and guidance of the "Living Stone" that brings forth that spiritual growth. We grow as God's Holy Spirit grows us through His Word. From His Word we learn to walk in every circumstance. "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!" Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"