



Heartland Heartbeats

Newsletter of the Heartland Mission District, NALC

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

May 2023



Dean Doug's Musings

I love symbols. They have a way of communicating powerful messages with or without words. For those of us in the church we know the beauty and importance of visual symbols . . . an eternal light, water flowing from a shell, grapes and a shock of wheat, a Chi Rho, a butterfly, a lamb, and certainly a cross—all tell part of the story.

Pentecost is rich in symbols. An upper room with disciples sitting and waiting, a strong wind blowing throughout the building, tongues of fire spreading everywhere, the Holy Spirit descending and touching everyone and filling one and all with some very special gifts.



Isaiah mentions these gifts. Describing the Messiah as the One on whom the spirit will rest, he lists the Spirit's gifts as "the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. And His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord." (11:2-3)

The first two gifts are intellectual abilities. Wisdom is mature intelligence, which sees the truth beneath appearances. Understanding is sharpness of mind to grasp truth quickly.

The next two are practical qualities. Counsel is the ability to make right decisions. Might describes the energy to carry them out.

The fifth and sixth gifts are religious qualities. Knowledge means knowing the Lord personally and insight into His character. Fear of the Lord refers to piety or godliness, and the desire to do what He commands.

The seventh gift – delight in the fear of the Lord summarizes the others. Symbolizes a healthy, overwhelming reverence for God that is a fountain of life.

Jesus possessed the Spirit's sevenfold gifts in fullest measure. The Holy Spirit continues to shower them upon those who believe. These are the gifts that are given all who are baptized.

The church I served in Glenview Illinois was located on Pfingsten Road. Talk about a symbol, because Pfingsten is the German word for Pentecost. Maybe not in a literal way but in a symbolic way I hope and pray everyone of our HMD churches is located on Pfingsten Road. I pray that each and every person who enters our doors is touched with the Holy Spirit and then filled with the gifts the Spirit offers. And then as our folks leave and go out into the world, I pray they share those gifts with one and all.

On May 28th we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the bringing of those gifts for all who believe. Ours is always to be a Church of the Pentecost Spirit making those gifts come alive and sharing those gifts with those who do not yet believe. To be sure, it is the Holy Spirit that fills our lives with God's living presence and empowers us to be God's bold disciples in the world.

Dean Doug Gast



Lutheran Week—August 7-11, 2023

Every other year the North American Lutheran Church gathers for what has come to known as Lutheran Week. It is more than just a meeting or a conference, it is a time of being renewed and informed of the latest things going on in our Church body. It is a time of connecting with brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a time of what Christ is doing in and through all our congregations. The Braaten-Benne Lectures complete a six-year theme on the Holy Trinity entitled "God the Father Creates . . . in His Image." And our overall theme is **Missio Dei** as we celebrate the fact that everything we do as a mission-driven Lutheran body comes from God and His mission which is one of our Core values. Our job is to seek the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission into the world — preaching the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. For details and registration information, go to the [NALC website](https://www.nalcn.org).



May 5, 2023
NALC
Faith Formation Festival



May 6, 2023
Ohio Mission Region Convocation &
Heartland Mission District Convocation

*Speaking the truth from sincere hearts,
 The one whose walk is blameless,
 who does what is righteous,
 who speaks the truth from their heart;
 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
 for you are God my Savior,
 and my hope is in you all day long.*
 Psalm 15:2b, 25:5

Last December I received a call from Bert Schultz who is the Dean of the NW Ohio District. He asked if we would like to join the 5 Ohio districts in sharing a convocation together. I brought the idea to the Heartland Council in January and they felt it would be a good idea.

So on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, we will be gathering at Grace Lutheran Church in Westerville, Ohio to have a joint convocation. (Grace is on the west side of Columbus.) There will be keynote speakers and workshops as well as worship. Some of the presentations will include "Raising God's children to be disciples in a broken world;" "Suicide in the Bible;" and "How do we keep the faith in the school system." Here is a sampling of the workshop topics: "Walking with Youth, Gender Dysphoria;" "Grief in Children and Adolescence;" and "Mission and Ministry in Tanzania." You can attend either Friday or Saturday or both days. Cost is \$30 each day or \$50 for both.

We will have time as a district to take care of Heartland business. And we have the added benefit of getting to know brothers and sisters from other area churches.

We will be sending out schedules and registrations by the end of this month. We know this is different, but the more we can expand our reach the more it will benefit our ministries. All are welcome if you would like to take advantage of the educational and inspirational opportunity in our Midwestern Area of the NALC.

NEXUS - For High School Youth



The **Nexus** Institute is a fun week of intensive learning for high school with a focus on "What Is God's Call On Your Life?". This NALC focused program led by the campus ministry and Prof. Mark Mattes exists to

transform the landscape of the Lutheran Church through innovative and intentional development of young adults who want to be more involved in the nexus of faith, life, and the church. The institute is a life-changing opportunity where young adults engage in theological learning, leadership development, and vocational discernment, all in the context of intentional Christian community, and are sent out to transform their local communities.

- **July 16, 2023 – July 22, 2023 Sunday-Saturday.**
- **Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa**
- **Cost is only \$100 per student**

To register contact: Kate Faas, Director of The NEXUS Institute 515-868-2810 nexus@grandview.edu

St. John's, Fort Wayne is offering transport for up to 7 youth to go with them. Contact Melanie at cbuscocasper@gmail.com to arrange getting a spot.



HMD Warehouse Inventory

Below is a current inventory of the HMD Warehouse in Connersville. There are a number of items that the Warehouse could use.

The list of items for the various kits was revised in January 2023. Click [here](#) for the current list.

The greatest needs are for quilts/blankets, health kits, and school kits. Quilts and blankets should be bagged individually, and it helps greatly to put a dryer sheet into the bags for quilts/blankets and health kits.

Gift cards MUST to go to [NALC Disaster Response](#), and monetary donations may go to the Heartland Mission District Treasurer—contact Treasurer [Linda Karlin](#). Please do not send them to Connersville.

If any church that wants to do a stuff the truck (or trailer) event please let [Dan Richardson](#) know so he can try to have a truck or trailer available.

Kit/Component	HMD Target Inventory	Inventory 4/24/2023
Flood Buckets	750	480
Bibles (All Styles)	750	393
Life Books/Devotional	750	305
Quilts/Blankets	1000	2
School Kits - Elementary	150	1
School Kits - High School	150	0
Health Kits	750	2
Baby Kits	Discontinued	
Shovels	150	17
Rakes	150	10
Hoes	150	0
Brooms	150	9
Mops	150	0
Disposable diapers	250	24
Generator	0	1
Gift Cards	Send directly to NALC Disaster Response	

Ideas? Contributions? Please Submit!

I invite you to submit material for inclusion in future newsletters, but please keep your information concise, to the point, and use "links" if you want to provide the reader with access to "long readings." — Doug Gast, HMD Dean, 317 727-0612, dgast1950@gmail.com

Blessings to each and everyone of you. If there is anyway I can serve or be of assistance, please call, text, or email.

Dean Doug Gast