



Heartland Heartbeats

Newsletter of the Heartland Mission District, NALC

*"Enter his gates with **thanksgiving** and his courts with praise; **give thanks** to him and praise his name." Psalm 100:4*

November 2023



Dean Doug's Musings

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be **thankful**." (Colossians 3:15)

Winston Churchill loved to tell the story of the little boy who fell off a pier into deep ocean water. An older sailor, heedless of the great danger to himself, dove into the stormy water, struggled with the boy, and finally

exhausted, brought him to safety.

Two days later the boy's mother came with him to the same pier, seeking the sailor who rescued her son. Finding him, she asked, "You dove into the ocean to bring my boy out?" "I did," he replied. The mother quickly demanded, "Then, where's his hat?"

A life without Thanksgiving is a life always looking for the missing hat. Those folks who have a hard time expressing thanks focus on the lesser instead of the greater. They somehow always see what they don't have, what they didn't get, what someone else has, so that no matter how good they have it, they still want more. They can't find anything to give thanks about. They come across as negative, demanding, angry, selfish. For them, nothing, no matter how much, is ever enough.

Contrast that to a life **"With Thanksgiving."** People who have put thankfulness into their vocabulary and life-style somehow always find something to be thankful for, no matter how bad, even in the most difficult situation. People whose hearts and lives are filled with thankfulness come across in a positive, inviting, warm and sensitive way. No little kindness received, no opportunity for good, no blessing enjoyed, no gift that is given, is taken for granted. For thankful and thank-filled people everything, no matter how little, is deserving and demanding of an expression of thanks.

It is not surprising that the origins of Thanksgiving Day can be traced to that small group of Christians in the Plymouth Colony. Christianity is a religion of Thanksgiving. Any authentic Thanksgiving begins with the recognition that there is a power greater than ourselves that provides, preserves, and protects us each and every day. Into the turbulent waters of life God sent Jesus to jump in and rescue us. You would think that everyone would be eternally grateful, but all some can say is "where's my hat?"

I hope and pray that each of our Heartland churches are always filled with praise and thanksgiving not only on the fourth Thursday of November, but every day 24/7/365. Let me one of the first to wish you a blessed and joy-filled time of thanksgiving with your families and in your churches and communities.

Dean Doug Gast



Bishop Dan Selbo — Weekly Update

I hope all are getting our Bishop's weekly updates. They are timely and keep us abreast of what is happening throughout the NALC. On the week of October 13th, he talked about the escalating and awful conflict going on in Israel and the Gaza Strip. We have all seen the images and savage brutality this conflict has brought. He wrote a heartfelt pastoral letter to all in the NALC. If you haven't read it, I would encourage and commend you to do so. Included is a well-written and well-expressed prayer that expresses our heavy hearts, our empathy for those who are grieving and looking to the Lord for healing, guidance, and peace.



There is also a suggestion page on "How to Pray," and included is a list of Crisis Relief and Aid Organizations. We have copied and made these available to our people here at Bethel. In this turbulent and war ravaged time, we ask for God's intervention to restore sanity, protect the innocent, and bring somehow, someday a peaceful resolution.



The HMD warehouse is still reasonably stocked, and we are just about the only one with health kits and flood buckets in inventory. The next hurricane, flood or

tornado will probably deplete our inventory. With that in mind, we need to continue adding flood buckets, health kits, school kits, Bibles, quilts, and miscellaneous items. I will also accept any kit components except pencils, pens, tooth brushes, or bars of soap for I have these in stock. Gift cards and or cash are also welcome.

Congregations can contact me to arrange pickup.

Special note: flood buckets include 3 pairs of gloves- 1-pair leather work, 1-pair cotton work and 1-pair latex cleaning gloves. The preferred size is large.

Dan Richardson, HMD Warehouse Coordinator



Heartland Pastors' Retreat??????

I have been looking into possible retreat locations. Right now I am leaning toward St Joseph's Retreat and Conference Center in Tipton Indiana. It puts most of our pastors within a 2-hour drive. Because of all that has been going on at Bethel, I am still in the early stage of planning. Our first choice date of January 2024 would be better than May. We will be looking at a Wednesday/Thursday gathering. Jess Abbot, our Area Assistant to the Bishop has agreed to lead our time digging into "Family Systems." If you would be interested in participating or even help plan the retreat, please let me know? Right now I am working on a tentative agenda. Thanks!

Pastoral Vacancies In Our District

Five congregations in our district continue the search process for a new pastor. Please lift these brothers and sisters in prayer in your worship as they actively wait for the Holy Spirit to lead the right person to respond to their congregations' mission and ministry.

The churches in the call process are:

- Antioch Lutheran in Hoagland In**
- First Lutheran in Hammond In**
- House of Prayer in Elizabethtown Ky**
- Living Faith in Wabash In.**
- St John's in Sunman In.**

This month we add **Bethel Lutheran in Noblesville,** who have now had their call workshop and formed a call committee to extend a call for a senior pastor.

We pray that the Holy Spirit move strong in each of these grace-filled communities of faith and that the Holy Spirit might be stirring in the hearts of pastors to apply and seek the right call for them.

Pulpit Supply – 2023

Pastor Douglas Schoelles put together the following information from the ELCA & the LCMS as guidelines for pulpit supply. I thought this might be helpful as you take time away from church for vacations or other responsibilities.

From The Indiana-Kentucky ELCA Synod Compensation Guidelines for pulpit supply honorarium:

- One worship service is \$200.00
- \$50.00 for each additional worship service
- Round-trip mileage should be paid at the IRS standard mileage rate for employee reimbursements (see www.irs.gov for current rate).

<https://iksynod.org/pulpit-supply-list/>

From the Indiana District - Missouri Synod At their December 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Indiana District – LCMS approved the following recommendation for Pulpit Supply and Vacancy situations.

- Presiding – No Sermon \$50
- Preaching – One Service \$125
- Presiding and Preaching \$175
- Additional Services \$75
- Bible Study / Presentation \$75/hour
- Mileage IRS Rate
- Lodging & Meals Paid if overnight stay is deemed necessary

<https://in.lcms.org/salary-guidelines/>

Resources for Congregations Without Pastors

Online Confirmation Program - contact the Southern Area Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Mark Braaten, 903-316-1594 mbraaten@oslctyler.org or Pastor Teresa Peters at tpeters@thenalc.org Confirmation / Catechism Web Courses [Free] – Luther House of Study, <https://lutherhouseofstudy.org/courses/> Sermons for Lay Leaders to Deliver at Worship Services Iowa Mission District sermon library www.iowamissiondistrict.com or contact Pastor Burkhalter at pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com. Pastor David Wendel posts sermons on YouTube https://youtu.be/gCcD_IvwCbA, he also posts them on his Facebook page and the NALC Fellowship group; or contact Pastor Wendel at dwendel@thenalc.org.

State of the Midwestern Area As of Sep 1, 2023

Our HMD is part of the Midwestern Area which includes Ohio, Michigan, Indiana/Kentucky, Iowa, and parts of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. Our Area Assistant to the Bishop is Jess Abbot. Here is some recent stats that he shared that I thought you might find of interest.

Congregations with Pastors.....	93
Pastors with Congregation calls.....	97
Congregations without Pastors.....	41
Interim Pastors (in congs w/o Prs.).....	10
Pastors of Specialized ministries.....	11
Retired Pastors (not Interim now).....	33
Seminary Students.....	5
Home Churches (not congs yet).....	2
Total Congregations	134
Total non-retired Pastors	118

Clergy Retreat & Gathering of the Ministerium

"Come to me, and I will give you rest..." Matthew 11:28–30

Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando – Disney Springs Area
2000 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 am to Thursday, January 18 at 12:00pm

This year's ministerial gathering is going to have a slower pace, more time for reflection, daily prayer, and both large and small group gatherings. This time will give us an opportunity to foster deeper connections with brothers and sisters in our NALC family. Plan now to attend as we together seek rejuvenation in the Lord's presence.

\$125 Registration Fee; Includes Select Meals; Attendees pay Hotel Costs.

NALC YOUTH GATHERING

Put this on your calendars for next summer. An NALC Continental Youth Gathering will be held July 1-4, 2024, in Boerne, Texas (near San Antonio) Because of space constraints there are only 500 that will be able to share this experience. Get registrations in ASAP.

It has a great theme: **"We Belong."** Indeed, we belong to Christ. We belong to the church. We belong to each other. Yes! We belong! This is for youth 12-18. This will be a four-day gathering that will provide opportunities for NALC youth to grow in faith and relationships with others as the body of Christ. There will be learning, vibrant worship, fellowship and fun.

