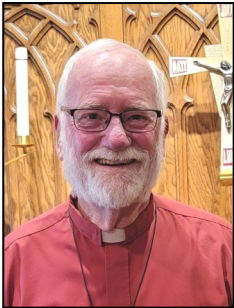


# Heartland Heartbeats

Newsletter of the Heartland Mission District, NALC

*"Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed you faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory." | Peter 1:21*

April 2024



## Dean Doug's Musings

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EASTER CELEBRATION?

Easter 2024 was glorious here at Bethel! The weather cooperated, and we could have our Sunrise Service outside. Inside the sanctuary was absolutely beautiful with tulips, hyacinths, and lilies

all in full bloom. Attendance was encouraging. People were smiling, greeting one another and enjoying being together. We saw a lot of new faces, who we hope to see in the Easter Season now. The music was joyous and very festive. And we had a terrific breakfast. The Spirit of the living Lord was everywhere. I hope the same was true for you as well.

But what happens in the weeks following Easter? Will the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ inspire us to renewed commitment to worship and service as "Resurrection People?"

An old friend and seminary professor, Art Arnold, shared this story that I cut out and now share with you.

*A little boy was listening in on a family conversation. His parents were talking sympathetically about the Sunday School superintendent who has lost a beloved family member a few days before. They wondered if the superintendent would be in church school the next Sunday, which happened to be Easter.*

*The family went to church together, then little Johnny went to Sunday School. When it was over, the little boy came running up to his parents and said excitedly: "Mom, Dad! He really believes it." Mom and Dad tried to calm him down and figure out what he meant – and gradually they found out.*

*There in Sunday School, their son watched and listened as the superintendent presided at the opening gathering. With tears in his eyes, and an occasional lump in his throat, the superintendent read the Easter story, and said a few words about it. Johnny sensed it all: the sorrow, the struggle, the Easter faith. And the best of all was Jesus appearing again and again. He couldn't wait to tell his folks: "Mom, Dad! He really believes it!"*

"Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed you faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory."  
(I Peter 1:21)

## Dean Doug Gast

### NALC Hits 500 Congregational Milestone



The North American Lutheran church reached the milestone of 500 congregations in March. The NALC had only 17 charter congregations when it was constituted in August of 2010. We have experienced steady growth over the last 14 years together, and I know we have several churches in the Heartland District who are making a decision of becoming a part of the NALC in the near future.

## STUFF the TRUCK! Disaster Response Thank You!



Thank you to all the congregations and individuals who donated to Heartland's "Stuff the Truck" month!

\* \* \*

**Date:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024

**Subject:** March 14 tornadoes in Indiana

Greetings all,

A big thank you to Dan Richardson for making deliveries of the emergency relief supplies to the Winchester/Selma area and to Madison IN/Milton KY communities. The supplies were definitely appreciated and your help and support is greatly appreciated!

As our congregations continue to ask, the greatest need at this time is gift cards of all types to help families meet specific needs in addition to providing resources for our volunteer teams to start the rebuilding process. If you are able to schedule a NALC Disaster Response Sunday and host a gift card collection, please let Dan and I know - for more information on the tornadoes, please call Dan at 317-435-2768 or me at 740-509-1132 - thank you and God bless,

Mary Bates

NALC Disaster Response Coordinator

**LOMIK CAMPS SUMMER 2024**

Campers Entering Grades 6 – 9

**Heartland Mission District  
Confirmation Camp  
Confirmation Program led by:  
Pastor Doug Gast &  
Pastor Douglas Schoelles  
June 9 – 14 at Lake Luther**

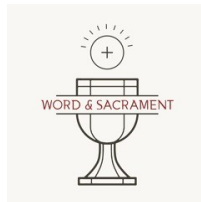
**Register today at [www.lomik.org](http://www.lomik.org) or scan QR code**





### Interterm for Pastors @ NALS June 10-14

This June we are invited to join with Pastors across the NALC in Ambridge for an engaging classroom experience as we meditate upon what it means for the NALC to be “mission driven” at such a time as this. Leading this course is the Rev. Canon Dr. Dan Alger, a seasoned pastor, an experienced church planter, and celebrated author of the recent book **Word and Sacrament: Ancient Traditions for Modern Church Planting**. The final day of course content and discussion groups throughout the week will be facilitated by pastors from the NALC with a passion for mission within our contemporary context. Auditors and pastors seeking continuing education opportunities are most welcome! Registration opens March 25. [www.thenals.org/interterm](http://www.thenals.org/interterm)



### HMD Pastoral Searches

Five of our churches continue their search for a pastor to lead their congregations. We ask for all of our HMD churches to join together in prayer for the Holy Spirit to move in the heart of a pastor to sense a call to the mission and ministry of one of these pastoral opportunities.



**Antioch Lutheran in Hoagland IN**  
**St John's in Sunman IN**  
**House of Prayer in Elizabethtown KY**  
**Living Faith in Wabash IN**  
**Bethel Lutheran in Noblesville, IN**

May the Holy Spirit continue to lead and foster strong ministries in their time of interim.

### Heartland Mission District Convocation



Our Heartland District Convocation is now scheduled for October 5, 2024, from 9:30 AM—3:00 PM and will be held at Bethel Lutheran in Noblesville, IN. Our theme will be “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

Rev. Carol Fryer, Mission Specialist of the NALC is going to be our featured speaker. We are planning on interest-driven workshops as well as a youth oriented workshop. We want to get the dates and speakers lined up asap so that all of our churches can get lay people to come and share the life of the greater church, get to know brothers and sisters in Christ and get ideas that perhaps can be implemented in their churches. We will do our best to keep everyone updated and informed.

### Ideas? Contributions? Distribution?

If you have ideas let me know. If you would like something included, send it to me. If you know someone who would like to be included in this newsletter, send me their name and email. Thanks for all your help and hope this Heartbeats find you well and doing good.

Joyfully serving Jesus together  
 Doug Gast, HMD Dean, 317 727-0612,  
[dgast1950@gmail.com](mailto:dgast1950@gmail.com)

### Online Confirmation Program



Right now there are 2 NALC confirmation classes. New classes will be forming in the fall - contact the Southern Area Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Mark Braaten,

903-316-1594 [southernaab@thenalc.org](mailto:southernaab@thenalc.org) or Pastor Teresa Peters at [tpeters@thenalc.org](mailto:tpeters@thenalc.org)

### More Resources for our Congregations

**Sermons** Pastor Jess Abbott posts services / sermons on YouTube. Go to YouTube and search “Abundant Grace Lutheran Church Westchester”. Or contact Pastor Jess at [midwesternaab@thenalc.org](mailto:midwesternaab@thenalc.org)

Pastor David Wendel posts **sermons** on YouTube [https://youtu.be/gCcD\\_IvwCbA](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](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org)

**Marital / Premarital Counseling Tool Zoe** [www.zoescore.com](http://www.zoescore.com). Currently, the tool is used by approximately 10,000 pastors/therapists around the country and world. Pastor Brian Salminen would gladly welcome the opportunity to train any NALC pastors / lay leaders on the use of the tool for free. If interested, contact Pr. Salminen at [drsal\\_123@yahoo.com](mailto:drsal_123@yahoo.com)