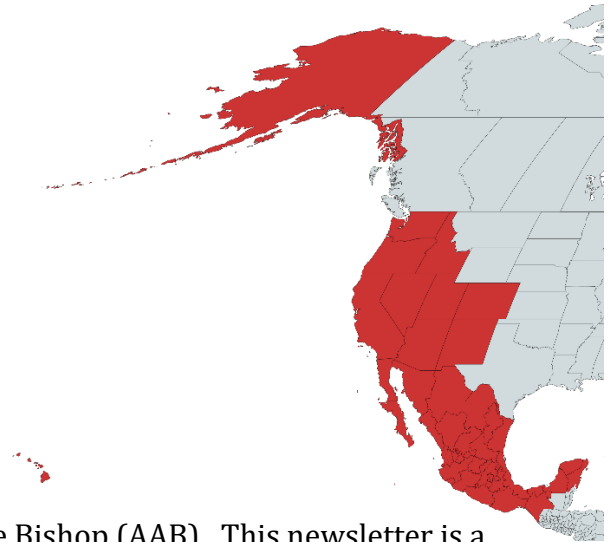




WESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER

October 2026



Greetings!

I am Rev. Marv Combs, the Western Area Assistant to the Bishop (AAB). This newsletter is a resource of what is going on in the Western Area of the North American Lutheran Church. It provides a place to find information for pastors and congregations of the NALC.



FALL IS HERE – Believe it or Not!

This seems to have been the most unlikely example of Fall in the West. With record heat, floods, and other calamities, we wonder if Fall will just be skipped over this year. But the seasons for the Church go on as expected. Kids are back at school, vacationers have returned home, and some familiar faces are once again in their normal spot in the pews. This is the time when things in our parish we put off can now get taken care of. And we know that we can't put them off very long; Advent is coming sooner than later and everything will be back on hold for a time.

One thing that always begins to be on the agenda this time of year is the upcoming budget. With a foot in each of God's Kingdoms, sacred and secular, we must attend to gifts and plans that God has for us with an eye to real world and our obligation to be responsible stewards of our resources. As members of the NALC, we have the opportunity help support our denomination as it continues in turn to support the work of congregations and members of our parishes. Please consider a portion of your congregation's upcoming stewardship monies towards the NALC as we grow together into the future.

For a Printable Letter from the Bishop for Congregations to Consider-See attached

For Individuals Interested in Supporting the NALC with their Donations-See article

RESULTS

The NALC Annual Convocation – ONLINE For the LAST TIME

Last August the NALC held its final online convocation. That is not to say it was the last time a convocation will be held; the NALC Constitution requires an every-other-year

schedule for the convocations. It's just that they will all be in person going forward. Next Year's Convocation will be August 9-13 in Orlando, FL.

The two items needing action were attended to at our past August's online gathering. The two-year unified budget was approved and three new members were elected to the North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents; Rev. Dr. Eric Waters, Rev. Dr. Paul Krueger, and Rev. James Lehmann.

Congregations and Clergy

We welcome this Pastor into the NALC Roster and our Western Area

The Rev. Carleton Smee

Serving as Associate Pastor at
Grace Lutheran Church,
Ridgecrest, CA

Clergy roster info can be found at:

<https://thenalc.org/en-us/people/>

Congregation roster info can be found at:

<https://thenalc.org/en-us/congregations/>

A CELEBRATION!

In our last newsletter we highlighted the ministry of Trinity Oromo Evangelical Church in Oregon. Their Spirit-lead efforts were rewarded this month with the celebration of their one-year anniversary. Pictured are Rev. Phil Lee, the Dean of the Northwest Pacific Mission District, along with Rev. Kamiso Boru, and visiting pastors cutting the birthday cake.



Annual Mission District Gatherings

The NALC is organized into geographical subdivisions of congregations called Mission Districts. These Mission Districts all have a Dean who connects you to the Office of the Bishop of the NALC. In many ways the connection with your Mission District is the most meaningful one as it is the local partnership that put you together with other local NALC congregations and the communities you have in common. Each year your Mission District members gather to worship, share, learn, and, plan for the future.

An Important Note:

Your Mission District and Dean are there to serve you with a local presence. It is important for congregations and individuals to support your Dean financially to be able to cover their expenses. Please connect with your Dean to get details for support and donations.

Rev. Randy Ouimette
Southwest Pacific Mission District
randyouimette@gmail.com

Rev. Taylor Stempniak
Central Pacific Mission District
ptmarie96@gmail.com

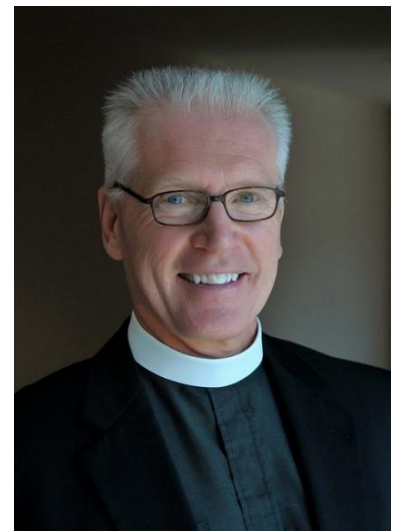
Rev. Phil Lee
Northwest Pacific Mission District
plee4433@gmail.com

Rev. Ken Hohag
Rocky Mountain Mission District
pastorbflc@bflchurch.org



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC MISSION DISTRICT GATHERING-Oct. 17

*"Equipping the Saints for
Discipling"*



The Southwest Pacific Mission District will hold its annual gathering Oct. 17th at Westchester Lutheran Church in Westchester, CA. The event will be from 10am-4pm with lunch. There will be news about the NALC, mission district, and the congregations in the area. The keynote speaker, Bishop Emeritus John Bradosky will be discussing "disciple-making." Contact randyouimette@gmail.com or call [805-550-7708](tel:805-550-7708) to RSVP.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Opportunities to Support the North American Lutheran Church

Across our church body, God is renewing congregations, equipping leaders for faithful service, and transforming communities through the power of the Gospel. Through ministries such as congregational renewal, theological education, church planting, global mission, and leadership development, lives are being changed and people are being drawn into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Your generosity makes this work possible. As you consider your year-end giving, prayerfully consider supporting the mission and ministry of the North American Lutheran Church. Your gift helps equip leaders, strengthen congregations, and share the hope of Jesus Christ in communities across North America.

Opportunities for giving include the General Fund, Great Commission Fund, and Theological Education Fund. Visit thenalc.org/giving or mail a contribution to North American Lutheran Church, 2113 Harwood Rd, Suite 309, PMB 409, Bedford, TX 76021.



Want to learn more about supporting the NALC? Reach out to Maddie Benson, NALC Director of Development, mbenson@thenalc.org.

Calling All Preachers-Sermons for Lay Worship Leaders

If you are a NALC pastor who can supply your sermons to the Trusted Sermon Network, we can use them. There are congregations who have trained lay members who deliver sermons supplied through the Trusted Sermon Network.

The preferred form to submit is;

1. Manuscripts-easy for someone to simply read aloud
2. Video of the sermon presentation only.
3. Having someone transcribe a sermon from an entire recorded service can be daunting but is acceptable.

Submit sermons to;

<https://thenalc.org/en-us/our-work/equipping-disciples/trusted-sermon-network/>

Connect with Area Assistant to the Bishop (AAB):

Let me know if you would like me to come for a presentation, consultation, or event and I'll work with your Mission District Dean to make that happen as schedules allow. My email is; mcombs@thenalc.org